JOHN BULL

Vol. XV. No. 393 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1913. | ONE PENNY

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For meaning of this No. see page 906.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

OUR
£1,800
FOOTBALL
CONTEST

FINAL
COUPON
THIS WEEK.

"BULLETS" COMPETITORS!

Notice Re Turkey Prizes.

¶ Owing to reasons of space "John Bull" cannot print the names and addresses of their Turkey winners.

¶ The proprietors, however, have kindly acceded to our request to supply us with the full list, and the names and addresses of winners will be found in this week's issue of the "Competitors' Journal"—which can be obtained at any newsagent or bookstall in the country.

¶ The names of the winners of Turkeys each week will also be found in succeeding issues of the "Competitors' Journal."

THE

"COMPETITORS' JOURNAL"

is a 24-page weekly paper issued in the interest of competitors. It gives you advice and help which will lead you nearer the goal you are seeking.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION—some eight months ago—"C.J." readers have won over

£21,000

in Big Prizes alone. Join the happy band NOW!

Order the "C.J." through your newsagent, or it will be sent post free for one year 6s., six months 3s., three months 1s. 6d., or one month 6d.

THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL,
27a, Glasshouse Street, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

FOOTBALL SKILL CONTEST No. 6.

"JOHN BULL" ENTRANCE FORM.

Matches to be played Saturday, Dec. 20.

READ NEW RULE

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. FOR A DRAW CROSS OUT BOTH TEAMS.

Derby County	v.	Newcastle United
Bradford City	v.	Burnley
Blackburn Rovers	v.	Manchester United
Everton	v.	Chelsea
W. Bromwich Albion	v.	Bolton Wanderers
Middlesbrough	v.	Aston Villa
Tottenham Hotspur	v.	Sheffield Wednesday
Barnsley	v.	Hull City
Birmingham	v.	Leeds City
Blackpool	v.	Bradford
Bury	v.	Wolverhampton W.
Fulham	v.	Bristol City
Grimsby Town	v.	Clapton Orient
Huddersfield	v.	Leicester Fosse
Lincoln City	v.	Notts County
Bristol Rovers	v.	Exeter City
Merthyr Town	v.	Millwall
Plymouth Argyle	v.	Brighton and Hove
Southampton	v.	Southend
Reading	v.	Northampton
Coventry City	v.	Norwich City

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

6 **Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.**

1. On the Entrance Form attached, cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names the teams you think will lose. **IF YOU PREDICT A DRAW CROSS OUT BOTH TEAMS** instead of, as heretofore, not crossing out either team.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form and address it to "John Bull," **25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.**, mark envelope in top left-hand corner, **Football Competition No. 6**, so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, December 19th.

3. The sum of £1,800 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results as published in "The Sporting Life" of all the matches given played to a finish on December 20th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results a cash prize of £500 will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows one error only. If no coupon is received containing one error only then the cash prize of £400 will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows only two errors. If neither the £1,800, nor the £500, nor the £400 is won, we shall then in any event award four distinct cash prizes **which must be won**, i.e., £300 to the Competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number; £100 to the sender of the next best coupon, and two special mauve coupon prizes, one of £50 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from MARY BULL, and one of £20 to the next highest correct forecast on a mauve coupon. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £1,800, £500, £400, £300, or the £100, the two MARY BULL prizes will be awarded to the two next most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of either the £1,800, £500 or the £400 prize being won, the £300 and the £100 prize will of course not be awarded.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition, the £1,800, the £500, or the £400, or the contingent prizes of £300 and £100, as well as the special £50 and £20 mauve coupon Prizes, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

8. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be accepted.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

Derby County	v.	Newcastle U.	Fulham	v.	Bristol City
Bradford City	v.	Burnley	Grimsby Town	v.	Clapton Orient
Blackburn R.	v.	Manchester U.	Huddersfield	v.	Leicester Fosse
Everton	v.	Chelsea	Lincoln City	v.	Notts County
W. Bromwich	v.	Bolton W.	Bristol Rovers	v.	Exeter City
Middlesbrough	v.	Aston Villa	Merthyr Town	v.	Millwall
Tottenham H	v.	Sheffield W.	Plymouth A.	v.	Brighton & H.
Barnsley	v.	Hull City	Southampton	v.	Southend
Birmingham	v.	Leeds City	Reading	v.	Northampton
Blackpool	v.	Bradford	Coventry City	v.	Norwich City
Bury	v.	Wolverhampton			

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XV. No. 393. Week ending Saturday, December 13th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *inquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for DEC. 6th, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number 332,387.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The £10 offered for the copy of JOHN BULL dated November 22nd, and bearing the number 832,444, has been claimed by, and will be paid to, Mr. G. GUTSELL, 4, Waterworks Cottages, Friston, near Polegate, Sussex.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Can't Catch Us!

We make no apology for devoting considerable space in this issue to the story of an attempted fraud upon us in connection with our third Football Competition of the present season. It forms an interesting story.

The Home Rule Position.

Can any reader tell us the present position of this controversy? We have given up reading about it. The gabble is getting on our nerves.

The Business Government League.

How the idea of this new title for the John Bull League has caught on! The days of the Party parrots are surely numbered.

Our Christmas Poor Fund.

Please read our appeal on page 896. You have never disappointed us in the past; and every year brings increased demands upon the Fund.

A New Party.

Do not be surprised to read of several important secessions from both the Liberal and Tory parties before Parliament meets. "F. E." and Winston have been very much together lately.

"Out of Print."

We told you so! Wholesale orders are still rolling in for *John and Mary*—but our answer is, alas! always the same—"out of print." There may still, however, be a few at the newsagents!

Only a Dog!

We are not disposed to join in the general condemnation of the following announcement, placed in a local paper by the Rev. J. G. Lyon, of Carmylie, Arbroath:—

> At the Manse of Carmylie, on the 10th inst., Argus, for many years the faithful, sagacious, sympathetic friend of the parish minister, who, by this lamented demise, suffers an irreparable loss. "Until the day break and the shadows flee away."

Who was the German philosopher whose appreciation of the dog was such, compared with that of the human race, that when on one occasion he lost his temper with his favourite collie he exclaimed: "Get out of the room—*you man*"? Only they who understand the wondrous soul of a dog can understand that old parson's grief. Who shall say that when the "day breaks," the soul of that faithful animal will not be amongst those that are called again to life?

Cleansing the Church.

There is really something in the idea that music hall artists should take up the question of the widespread immorality, of which instances are frequently coming to light, prevailing throughout the Church. Surely the Bishop of London might better occupy himself with this subject than with "The invocation of saints," which he recently took for his text at the Church Congress. If the Variety Artists' Federation care to take the matter up, we shall be pleased to start them on a very interesting case at Lowestoft—as to which more anon.

Then and Now.

We are always pleased to look at both sides of a question, and we admit that there is something in the following extract from a letter written us by a Belfast reader:—

> Now, with respect to Jim Larkin, he is a gasbag of the very worst type; he is a fraud, a great and perfect humbug, not having any real interest in the working men beyond what can be squeezed out of them when they are working to pay him the magnificent salary he receives for his dangerous agitation in the labour world. Now, brother John, you are great at statistics; well, try and work out how much better the Union man is since he received the various increases in his wages; deduct the contributions, fines and levies extorted from him, the loss of the greater part of his wages while on strike, sympathetic or otherwise—then prove that he is better off than when receiving the small but regular wages before the Unions were formed. If you can do this I shall, like Festus, be *almost persuaded* to become a Larkinite.

Perhaps Ramsay Macdonald will oblige with an answer.

Result of Our 5th Football Contest. List of Winners on page 885.

Getting On.

The "christening" of H.M.S. *Warspite* by Mrs. Austen Chamberlain was a pleasing outward sign of a significant inward change. Party, as a system of government, is breaking down by inches, and naval and military affairs, together with foreign policy, have already, by tacit consent, been withdrawn from its mischievous toils. Nor are these the only departments in which "continuity of policy" now obtains. But for sectarian differences, which are hardly political in their nature, the "problem" of national "education" would swiftly pass from the area of contention; while the Home Office, Board of Trade and Local Government Board are already hide-bound by traditions which bear little relation to the mock heroics of Party strife. Ministries may come and Ministries may go, but Government remains substantially unchanged. The task of vital reform is thus materially simplified. It but remains to put men with brains and practical ideas at the head of affairs—choosing each man with sole regard to his qualifications for the job in hand—and you have the ideal—a Business Government.

Let the Courts Decide.

We have more than once expressed our conviction that the panel doctors have no vestige of legal claim to the surplus medical benefit which has accumulated in the hands of the various Insurance Committees. The medicos have been paid for the work they have done—they are about the only people who have made a really good thing out of the Act—and it is manifestly inequitable that payments should accrue to them in respect of insured persons whom they have never seen. Moreover, with great respect to the Chancellor, we cannot believe that this was ever the intention of the Legislature. Our view is supported by authoritative legal opinion, and it must be remembered that the Insurance Act is now settled law, the interpretation of which rests with the Courts and not with the Commissioners. Even Sir Oracle Masterman must bow to the King's Bench. Let Sir Rufus decide.

A Sit-Down Strike.

It has been left to female ingenuity to devise a novel setting for the "sympathetic" strike which continually besets us. A hundred girls in the employ of a Manchester firm of corset manufacturers have "downed tools" in the interests of a score of their number who are said to be unfairly affected by a new pricing scheme recently introduced. It is scarcely correct to say that the lasses have "come out." They have elected to stay in. For many days they have entered the works at the usual hour with the avowed intention of sitting idly by their machines and thus preventing the intrusion of "black-leg" labour. To the casual observer, it would seem a simple matter to shut the doors—and keep them out.

Hapless Hank.

"The prisoner is my brother," declared P.C. Hank, when, at the East Ham Court, he detailed the circumstances in which Richard Hank, alias Bird, had lapsed into crime. Whether this interesting fact was to be regarded as an aggravation of the culprit's offence or as an extenuating consideration, the worthy officer did not explain. In any case, the relationship proved of scant value to the accused, who, after a recital of his previous convictions, was promptly sentenced to two months' "hard." We trust that the little incident may not unduly strain the bond of fraternal affection. Meanwhile, when next it is whispered in our ears that the Metropolitan Police are anything other than peripatetic monuments of inexorable integrity, we shall bid the base detractor hide himself in the depths of the ocean, and tell his story to the submarines.

The Voice of the People.

"Why not," asks a reader, "give a Member of Parliament the power of exercising votes equal to his majority over his opponent? It is manifestly unfair that on a division all are equal, whether returned by a narrow or overwhelming majority; it is the balance that should count. The Member with two thousand majority, under the existing system, has no more power than one returned by the casting vote of a Presiding Officer, who may be a personal friend. In friendly society bi- or triennials, delegates have a voting power equal to the number of members they represent. An M.P. represents the units comprising the difference between himself and his opponent, and his power limited or expanded to such representation is my idea. It would amount to something akin to a Referendum at every division. What new interest it would arouse, even in constituencies where the result was a foregone conclusion! The opposition would, I think, make a splendid rally to curtail the victor's power. It is not a Party question; there would be gains and losses everywhere—which spells perfect equity." We must think the matter over

"Time, Gentlemen, Please!"

The enrolment of an Irish Volunteer Defensive Force in the Nationalist provinces will scarcely diminish the difficulties of the Government. Ministers, indeed, are firmly impaled upon the horns of an exceedingly troublesome dilemma. Your Southern Irishman is not the man to preserve a peaceful decorum when once a row is in sight, and it was, of course, to be expected that the challenging drums of Ulster would sooner or later arouse the clans of Munster and Connaught; but the Government which has failed to check the policy of Sir Edward Carson and his henchmen can scarcely be expected to curb the exuberant militancy of its own allies. Yet the unauthorised recruitment of armed forces is, to say the least, of doubtful legality, while their existence constitutes a palpable menace to civil order. We by no means like the look of a situation which is rapidly worsening with the passing days. *The time for "compromise" has come.*

To His Majesty's Customs.

By the gracious permission of the Board of His Majesty's Customs, the British blues are able to purchase their cigarettes on board H.M. ships duty free. This looks like a large-hearted philanthropy; actually it is the subsidising of a number of traders, principally Maltese, to the extent of many thousands of pounds a year. Although all these ship traders obtain their goods duty free, the bluejackets aboard have to pay exactly the same price for them as they would have to do ashore. If the First Lord of the Admiralty would whisper to the Board of Customs, and the Board of Customs would have a quiet talk with the Director of Canteens, then perhaps that official could say something to the contractors——but we'll wait and see!

Why Not Hang?

Scan the reports of the Board of Trade inquiry into the *Volturno* disaster. You will learn that in the hour of utter peril the captain and three of his crew were frantically engaged in making rafts to supplement the primitive life-saving appliances at hand; you will gather that, owing to the tragic delay resulting from the absence of effective boat-lowering apparatus, passengers stormed the davits and cut the boatfalls, thus precipitating a panic rush; you will realise the impotence of the *Carmania's* oar-propelled lifeboat in the teeth of a raging sea. Then turn up our article written on the morrow of the catastrophe and read our indictment of Mr. Sydney Buxton. You will scarcely think our severity misjudged.

Our £1,800 Football Prize is to be Won This Week. Final Coupon.

Snub for the Glasgow Police.

In the High Court of Justiciary, Lord Salveson administered a well-deserved snub to the Glasgow—and, incidentally, to other—police who fool away their time and energies in interfering with the harmless amusements of the public. The occasion was an appeal on the conviction of the proprietor of an icecream shop for having "exposed a lottery"; the lottery being a penny-in-the-slot machine which, when the operator pulled a handle, actuated a ball that did or did not fall into a metal cup, but which, if it did, returned a check entitling him to goods value twopence. As anyone knows who has tried this machine, the ball can be got into the cup only by skill, that is to say, by exercising the exact force in the pull necessary to lift the ball into the cup—if the pull is too weak the ball will fall before it reaches the cup; while if it is too strong it goes past the cup. This, then, was the "lottery" machine which the man was fined for "exposing," the whole Bench of judges, one dissenting, deciding that it was not a lottery, but a machine for the exercise of skill; wherefore the conviction was bad. "The Glasgow police," said Lord Salveson in stating his view, "might be better employed than in interfering with such harmless amusement as might be derived from such a machine." We agree. The police in London and other towns are frequently put up to silly prosecutions of this kind either by Town Clerks anxious to make new laws or by Stigginses out to rescue our immortal souls from the perils and dangers of this life. There is not the slightest justification or excuse for them. They waste the time of the courts, the money of the public, and the energies of the police, who are thus brought into ridicule and contempt. If the police have nothing better to do, they had much better do nothing.

A Ridiculous Statue.

Nobody who pauses on his way to gaze up at the statue on the left side of the Admiralty Arch will disagree with the Hon. Lady Barlow, who bluntly calls it a "monstrosity." If there is anywhere on this fair earth a more ridiculous sculptural incongruity than this one, perhaps somebody will indicate to us its whereabouts. It is the draped figure of a helmeted woman of Junoesque appearance, seated; her breasts are bared, like her arms, and she is nursing, not twins, not a dolly, not even a teddy-bear, but a toy cannon, which she appears to have bought at a sixpenny bazaar. Who is responsible for passing this extraordinary absurdity for erection on the Admiralty Arch we cannot say, but we cannot believe that Mr. Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, has seen it, or, if he has, has realised its ineffable silliness. For goodness' sake let him use his influence with the Board of Works to have it pulled down, or presently the man from Cook's will mark it out as one of the sights of London and surround it with giggling crowds of "innocents abroad."

Largesse! Largesse!

Except for the four culprits, who doubtless deserve their fate, the pearl necklace drama is apparently to have a happy ending for all concerned. £9,000 for the amateur detectives, Brandstatter and Quadratstein, a cool five hundred for the lynx-eyed piano-tuner who picked the pearls from the gutter, and, "subject to the approval of the Chief Commissioner of Police," gratuities to Chief Inspector Ward and his men for doing their duty; and a "dab in the hand" for everyone all round. Nothing could possibly be nicer. Meanwhile, Mr. Max Mayer has recovered his precious pearls, and will doubtless take uncommonly good care of them in the future. Wherefore, all's well that ends well. Curtain, please!

Magistracy at Richmond-on-Thames.

A few days ago a Richmond licensee was prosecuted for what was admitted to be a not very serious offence. Six magistrates were on the Bench, and after hearing the evidence three were for conviction and three for acquittal, the Chairman being one of the latter three. The magistrates being in the position of a jury, it is evident that with such a division of opinion there ought not to have been a conviction. Counsel for the prosecution and counsel for the defence alike pressed that, in the circumstances, the summons should be dismissed on payment of costs, which would have been a just and sensible proceeding. But you never know what the brain of your Justice of the Peace is made of till it gets to work. By a chance it may be of good material; more probably it will turn out to be putty, pudding, or timber. In this case the cerebral material appears to have been timber, for they did not dismiss the summons, as they ought to have done; the Chairman gracefully and genially retired in order to give a majority, and the poor licensee was convicted, fined 5s., and ordered to pay five guineas costs, "it being understood that the Bench did not wish the conviction to prejudice the interests of the licensee." That a Chairman of Magistrates should deliberately bring about the conviction of a man he believes to be innocent is one of those novel conceptions of justice which could occur only, let us hope, to the distinguished gentleman, whoever he is, who adorns the Richmond Bench—and even so charity suggests that it is due to some insidious process of softening going on in the timber under his hat. Assuming we are right in this supposition, it follows that he needs treatment suitable to his alarming case, and we suggest he should consult a craniologist and act on the expert's inevitable advice to retire without delay to a sanatorium previous to operation.

Just Retribution.

The General Medical Council, somewhat somnolent of late, has at length given earnest of its concern for the honour of the faculty. A Croydon doctor, convicted of practising in partnership with an unqualified person, has been summarily struck off the Register, while a Kingston surgeon, guilty of the grossest abuse of his professional privileges, has been dealt with in similar fashion. Both men had richly deserved the extreme professional penalty. In the one case death had resulted from the illicit partnership, while in the other there was the clearest evidence of conduct which, if once condoned, would for ever sap the confidence which husbands are wont to repose in the honour of medical men. Meanwhile, there are panel doctors here and there who would be the better for a tightening of the disciplinary rein. Equally with those of loftier estate, the poor have a right to demand the protection of the Council.

A Practical Programme.

"Brother Jack" Raphael, Secretary of the Costermongers' Union, has epitomised his politics in a phrase. "Three meals a day, or as near as possible," is his eminently practical idea. Say what you will, Jack's simple programme contains more horse sense than half the "high falutin" nostrums which are the stock-in-trade of the Party wiseacres. Three good family meals for every man with the will and the wit to work for them, and a helping hand for the women and kiddies with no place at a man's table; a lift for the lame dogs and a whip for the loafers—not such a bad policy after all. Its realisation would speedily add to the sum total of human happiness, which, moralise as you will, is the only thing which really matters. Jack should join the League.

Hurry up and get your copy of "John and Mary" or you may be too late.

Cant at Camberwell.

The Camberwell Council has already earned a biggish measure of unenviable notoriety over the Crystal Palace business. Now the Camberwell Guardians have followed with a successful attempt to make themselves look ridiculous. Mr. F. F. C. Webb proposed that the inmates of the workhouse should be supplied with beer on Christmas Day. He reminded his fellow guardians that they would enjoy their glass of wine on that occasion, but the horrible accusation was met with shouts of "No!" Perhaps it would be beer, then, he suggested. But again indignant cries of "No!" rent the air. "Well, then," he added, "they had ginger-beer. Which was worse—a glass of ginger-pop, which cost 1½d., or a glass of beer, which cost a penny?" Nobody rising to solve the riddle, Mr. W. McCarthy, who claimed to be a life-long teetotaler, seconded the proposal, adding that if a glass of beer would give some little comfort to the old people in the house, let them have it—a sentiment which will find an echo in the breast of all decent-minded men and women, teetotalers or otherwise. But Miss Klaassen was yet to be reckoned with.

Hard Roe.

This lady was afraid that after one glass the craving on Boxing Day for another glass would be far worse than doing without it altogether. She overlooked the obvious solution of this difficulty—namely, to give them another glass on Boxing Day in honour of St. Stephen. Then uprose Mr. A. H. Roe, and quickly proved himself to belong to the hard variety. He opposed the suggestion. The next thing, he said, would be foaming pots of four ale in the board room, and clay pipes and tobacco. We wish it might come to that, provided it were not at the ratepayers' expense. For we have an idea that if the more rabid guardians would permit themselves the indulgence in an occasional glass of beer and a pipe they might succeed in secreting a little of the milk of human kindness, and in consequence look with a less jaundiced eye on a proposal to provide the workhouse inmates with a harmless drop of beer on Christmas Day to warm the cockles of their poor old hearts. Have Miss Klaassen and the hard Roe forgotten the marriage feast at which Christ turned the water into wine?

Army and Advertising.

The announcement that an Army publicity scheme is in course of construction opens up an interesting vista of possibilities. The pomp and *éclat* of arms will readily lend themselves to the genius of the advertising artist, and it may well be that deft presentment of the attractions of military service will afford a much-needed stimulus to voluntary enlistment. We welcome an experiment which indicates a determination on the part of the Ministry to give the voluntary system the fullest possible trial. If, in the final outcome, the present order of things should be deemed inadequate to national needs, it will then be the duty of statesmen to devise an alternative, which, while avoiding too violent a break with existing tradition, shall guarantee security and honour. Meanwhile, we trust that in the matter of publicity the Territorial Force will receive a larger share of official notice than it has had hitherto.

"Rag-Time" Tobacco.

A Tommy belonging to the 2nd Batt. Queen's Regiment, now in Bermuda, sends us a cake of plug tobacco, in the centre of which is embedded a portion of the tail of a shirt. He tells us that he purchased it in the canteen, and that when he took it back he was "threatened with the clink"—*anglice* guard room. Probably our friend (being outside the civilisation ring) is not aware that everything now is "Rag Time." The 2nd Queen's should be glad of the opportunity of acquiring the taste for a "Rag-Time" smoke.

Fuss and Fustian.

The Bishop Suffragan of Kensington is making himself so ridiculously fussy just now that the Bishop of London must be getting rather jealous. A Sunday or two ago this fashionable ecclesiarch saw the contents bill of a newspaper on the wall of a licensed house opposite his church as he was going to preach thereat in aid of the Clergy Fund, and as the bill related to a divorce case the right rev. gentleman was so shocked that he made a complaint to the police. "The Bishop's protest was unavailing," says the local *News*, which then makes the stupid but apparently episcopally-inspired threat that "if this form of annoyance is persisted in there may be an objection raised when licensing day arrives and licensees come up for the renewal of their licences." Thus does the censorship of Kensington's Suffragan pass from music-halls to newspaper contents bill. What next will offend his soul and rouse his holy zeal we should not like to guess; but if one of these lovely Sunday mornings his congregation find him anathematising the indecencies of open-worked stockings for ladies and turn-up trousers for men, our hair will certainly not rise up in amazement.

Obstinate Obstruction

The persistent refusal of the London County Council to grant reasonable refreshment facilities to the Hippodrome and Coliseum managements savours far too much of insensate puritanical fanaticism. In each case the considered judgment of the Licensing Committee has been ruthlessly overridden. It is grossly unfair that these two houses should be deprived of facilities uniformly enjoyed by their West End competitors, while the attempt to dictate to the public what and how they shall drink when out for an evening's amusement is a grandmotherly impertinence. The debate upon the Committee's recommendation evoked a neat jest from the Rev. Stewart Headlam, whose record of strenuous opposition to puritanism, and all its works, is worthy of commendation. "It is a delightful and pleasing thing," he observed, "to be able when a 'turn comes on that one does not care for—if one happens to be a bishop, say—to go out and get a drink." A nasty one that, for some of the Bishops!

Law and Loopholes.

Of Insurance Act test cases there is no end, and a moot point of some interest to wage-earners has at length been judicially determined. There is a widespread impression that an employer is within his rights in docking the wages of a sick employee to the extent of the insurance benefit enjoyed during the period of incapacity. Judge Spencer Hogg, of Rochdale, has now declared that such deductions are illegal, and that an insured person is entitled to the full benefit of his insurance claim, without prejudice to the wages guaranteed him by his agreement with his employer. The legal aspect of the matter seems to be free from difficulty, and it is unlikely that the decision will be disturbed on appeal. In practice, however, it is likely to amount to little. A trifling variation in the terms of contracts of service will serve to leaven the generosity of the law, except in the case of long term agreements, which cannot readily be altered.

Within the Meaning of the Act.

In the Brentford County Court, Judge Scully has decided that, under the Food and Drugs Act, a poulterer who sells a fowl for dinner gives an implied warranty that it is tender enough to eat. If it has to be divided with a chopper, or severed with a saw, it isn't fit for human food. This looks like being horrible news for the purveyor of the stony steak, the harmless chop, and the terrible turkey.

Important New Football Rule—For Draws: CROSS OUT BOTH TEAMS.

The Moral of a Strike.

At the South Wales village of Llanhilleth, fifteen thousand miners have returned to work after a five weeks' strike. Their refusal to descend the pits was a protest against the wanton disregard for human safety evinced by the colliery owners. They declined to resume work without guarantees that the needful appliances would at once be installed, and. in five weeks, they have won. The moral is clear. Coal-owners can comply with the law with completeness and despatch, at the first touch of compulsion. They will move quickly enough when their pockets are touched. We commend these conclusions to the Home Office, ever ready to plead impotence in the teeth of urgent peril.

A Startler.

Jolly good luck to Sir Thomas Lipton in his fourth plucky attempt to "lift" the America Cup! The challenger. whose craft must brave the Atlantic, is thereby heavily handicapped, but Sir Thomas is brimful of confidence in the design of Shamrock IV. "She is going to be the most wonderful yacht ever known. There is something about her which will startle people when she is finished." he declares. The "many a slip" axiom is eminently applicable to the fortunes of yacht racing, and by this time Sir Thomas should know a good thing when he sees it. May he go in and win. We will get ready to be startled. But——

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In this Competition no entrant was successful in predicting correctly the results of all the matches on the coupon. The following four competitors sent in the best results, their coupons containing four errors, and therefore share between them the prize of **£300**, *each receiving* £75.

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12, Parkhurst Avenue, New Moston, Manchester.
MR. HORACE SMITH,
174, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Staffs.
MISS E. WORNHAM,
Dartmouth Lodge, Littlehampton, Sussex.
MR. J. WILLIAMS,
5, Albert Street, Tring, Herts.

The following 24 *competitors sent in coupons containing five errors, and therefore divide the* **£100**, *each receiving* £4 3s. 4d.

H. JAMIESON, 19, Edenfield Road, Wavertree, Liverpool; PETER CAMPBELL, 36, Gladstone Road, Watford, Herts.; ARTHUR TOBUTT, 48, Oaklands Grove, Shepherds Bush, W.; ERNEST WARD, 97, Rucklidge Avenue, Harlesden, London, N.W.; MICHAEL KELLY, 87, Kirkgate, Huddersfield; G. H. GRIFFIN, 87, Wellsbrow Road, Liverpool; MRS. SPENCER, White House, North Cray, Kent; ARTHUR BATES, 4, Provident Villas, Upper Ryland Road, Birmingham; WILLIAM JOHNSTON, 12, Holmes Street, West Stanley, Co. Durham; D. RAND, 512, Central Avenue, Covent Garden, W.C.; E. ASTHONY, 29, Queen's Road, Ilford, Essex; JOSIAH MORTON, 11, West Leigh, Blackley, Manchester; H. BOWDEN, 66, Beaumont Street, Stoke, Devonport; J. E. CHAPPELL, 2, Eyre Street, Chesterfield; A. AKHURST, Inspector of Nuisances, Newhaven, Sussex; JOHN PITTS, 80, Whitby Street, Wisbech, Camb.; J. HUGHES, 10, Bankfield Street, Liverpool, N.; A D. CARVER, Clyde Cottages, Oulton Broad, Norfolk; W. DUTTON, 30, Brynavon Terrace, Hengoed, nr, Cardiff; J. GODFREY, 51, Southwell Grove Road, Leytonstone, Essex; C. W. TUMMEY, Rock Hill, Bromsgrove, Worcester; W. G. OLIVER, H.M.S. *Redpole*, Portland; Miss A. ALLEN, 15, Lady Margaret Road, N.W.; Mrs. WARD, 11, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.

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The Ideal Christmas Gift: A "John Bull" Pen. See Coupon on page iii. of cover.

Cant at Camberwell.

The Camberwell Council has already earned a biggish measure of unenviable notoriety over the Crystal Palace business. Now the Camberwell Guardians have followed with a successful attempt to make themselves look ridiculous. Mr. F. F. C. Webb proposed that the inmates of the workhouse should be supplied with beer on Christmas Day. He reminded his fellow guardians that they would enjoy their glass of wine on that occasion, but the horrible accusation was met with shouts of "No!" Perhaps it would be beer, then, he suggested. But again indignant cries of "No!" rent the air. "Well, then," he added, "they had ginger-beer. Which was worse—a glass of ginger-pop, which cost 1½d., or a glass of beer, which cost a penny?" Nobody rising to solve the riddle, Mr. W. McCarthy, who claimed to be a life-long teetotaler, seconded the proposal, adding that if a glass of beer would give some little comfort to the old people in the house, let them have it—a sentiment which will find an echo in the breast of all decent-minded men and women, teetotalers or otherwise. But Miss Klaassen was yet to be reckoned with.

Hard Roe.

This lady was afraid that after one glass the craving on Boxing Day for another glass would be far worse than doing without it altogether. She overlooked the obvious solution of this difficulty—namely, to give them another glass on Boxing Day in honour of St. Stephen. Then uprose Mr. A. H. Roe, and quickly proved himself to belong to the hard variety. He opposed the suggestion. The next thing, he said, would be foaming pots of four ale in the board room, and clay pipes and tobacco. We wish it might come to that, provided it were not at the ratepayers' expense. For we have an idea that if the more rabid guardians would permit themselves the indulgence in an occasional glass of beer and a pipe they might succeed in secreting a little of the milk of human kindness, and in consequence look with a less jaundiced eye on a proposal to provide the workhouse inmates with a harmless drop of beer on Christmas Day to warm the cockles of their poor old hearts. Have Miss Klaassen and the hard Roe forgotten the marriage feast at which Christ turned the water into wine?

Army and Advertising.

The announcement that an Army publicity scheme is in course of construction opens up an interesting vista of possibilities. The pomp and *éclat* of arms will readily lend themselves to the genius of the advertising artist, and it may well be that deft presentment of the attractions of military service will afford a much-needed stimulus to voluntary enlistment. We welcome an experiment which indicates a determination on the part of the Ministry to give the voluntary system the fullest possible trial. If, in the final outcome, the present order of things should be deemed inadequate to national needs, it will then be the duty of statesmen to devise an alternative, which, while avoiding too violent a break with existing tradition, shall guarantee security and honour. Meanwhile, we trust that in the matter of publicity the Territorial Force will receive a larger share of official notice than it has had hitherto.

"Rag-Time" Tobacco.

A Tommy belonging to the 2nd Batt. Queen's Regiment, now in Bermuda, sends us a cake of plug tobacco, in the centre of which is embedded a portion of the tail of a shirt. He tells us that he purchased it in the canteen, and that when he took it back he was "threatened with the clink"—*anglice* guard room. Probably our friend (being outside the civilisation ring) is not aware that everything now is "Rag Time." The 2nd Queen's should be glad of the opportunity of acquiring the taste for a "Rag-Time" smoke.

Fuss and Fustian.

The Bishop Suffragan of Kensington is making himself so ridiculously fussy just now that the Bishop of London must be getting rather jealous. A Sunday or two ago this fashionable ecclesiarch saw the contents bill of a newspaper on the wall of a licensed house opposite his church as he was going to preach thereat in aid of the Clergy Fund, and as the bill related to a divorce case the right rev. gentleman was so shocked that he made a complaint to the police. "The Bishop's protest was unavailing," says the local *News*, which then makes the stupid but apparently episcopally-inspired threat that "if this form of annoyance is persisted in there may be an objection raised when licensing day arrives and licensees come up for the renewal of their licences." Thus does the censorship of Kensington's Suffragan pass from music-halls to newspaper contents bill. What next will offend his soul and rouse his holy zeal we should not like to guess; but if one of these lovely Sunday mornings his congregation find him anathematising the indecencies of open-worked stockings for ladies and turn-up trousers for men, our hair will certainly not rise up in amazement.

Obstinate Obstruction

The persistent refusal of the London County Council to grant reasonable refreshment facilities to the Hippodrome and Coliseum managements savours far too much of insensate puritanical fanaticism. In each case the considered judgment of the Licensing Committee has been ruthlessly overridden. It is grossly unfair that these two houses should be deprived of facilities uniformly enjoyed by their West End competitors, while the attempt to dictate to the public what and how they shall drink when out for an evening's amusement is a grandmotherly impertinence. The debate upon the Committee's recommendation evoked a neat jest from the Rev. Stewart Headlam, whose record of strenuous opposition to puritanism, and all its works, is worthy of commendation. "It is a delightful and pleasing thing," he observed, "to be able when a 'turn' comes on that one does not care for—if one happens to be a bishop, say—to go out and get a drink." A nasty one that, for some of the Bishops!

Law and Loopholes.

Of Insurance Act test cases there is no end, and a moot point of some interest to wage-earners has at length been judicially determined. There is a widespread impression that an employer is within his rights in docking the wages of a sick employee to the extent of the insurance benefit enjoyed during the period of incapacity. Judge Spencer Hogg, of Rochdale, has now declared that such deductions are illegal, and that an insured person is entitled to the full benefit of his insurance claim, without prejudice to the wages guaranteed him by his agreement with his employer. The legal aspect of the matter seems to be free from difficulty, and it is unlikely that the decision will be disturbed on appeal. In practice, however, it is likely to amount to little. A trifling variation in the terms of contracts of service will serve to leaven the generosity of the law, except in the case of long term agreements, which cannot readily be altered.

Within the Meaning of the Act.

In the Brentford County Court, Judge Scully has decided that, under the Food and Drugs Act, a poulterer who sells a fowl for dinner gives an implied warranty that it is tender enough to eat. If it has to be divided with a chopper, or severed with a saw, it isn't fit for human food. This looks like being horrible news for the purveyor of the stony steak, the harmless chop, and the terrible turkey.

Important New Football Rule—For Draws: CROSS OUT BOTH TEAMS.

The Moral of a Strike.

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A FOOTBALL FRAUD THAT FAILED.

AN IMPUDENT AND CLUMSY CONSPIRACY—YOU CAN'T CATCH "JOHN BULL"!—AMENDED LIST OF PRIZE-WINNERS—HOW OUR COMPETITORS ARE PROTECTED.

Since the announcement in our issue of November 1st of the result of our Third Great Football Competition of the season—the Prize being £1,750—various things have been happening as to which we are now in a position to take the public into our confidence—a course which, as will be seen from what follows, was impracticable at an earlier date. It will be remembered that in the case of our Second Competition the £1,750 was divided between seventeen readers—it having been a fairly easy task (despite the calculations of the cranks) to foretell the results of the twenty matches in that particular contest. But in regard to the claims of four persons to have correctly foretold the twenty winners in our next competition, we were, at a very early stage, in possession of information which caused us to be suspicious of their *bona fides*; and whilst bound to publish the names and addresses of the apparent winners, we came to the conclusion that in fairness to other competitors it was our duty to hold a thorough inquiry before parting with the money. It will be remembered that such names and addresses were:—Mrs. R. Gold, 5, Bedford Place, Brighton, Sussex; Mr. F. Holland, 43, Maynard Road, Leicester; Mr. W. Jackson, Douglas Hotel, Manchester; and Mr. Harry Lewis Williams, 15, Abbey Road, Torquay.

WHAT WE DID.

We first despatched our Special Commissioner and his assistants to the addresses given above, and immediately on receipt of their preliminary reports we decided that the proper thing to do, pending further investigation, was to place the £1,750 to a Special Suspense Account with our bankers. And here is their acknowledgment of the money:

THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED.
Covent Garden Branch.

We hereby certify that the balance in the books of this Bank at credit of JOHN BULL Ltd., PRIZE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT, stood at the close of business on Dec. 6th, 1913 as follows:—£1,750 (One thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds).

The account was opened on November 4th ult., with the above amount. W. H. KEEPING,
Manager.

The way was then clear for further action. Our investigators continued to prosecute their inquiries and were soon in possession of evidence which left no doubt that a gross fraud had been attempted—the conspirators little knowing that the completeness of our system, and the extent of our organisation and ramifications, would effectually frustrate their designs. One of the "winners" Mr. "F. Holland," of 43, Maynard Road, Leicester, was kind enough to promise our Special Commissioner £200 if he "made it all right," and actually gave him an I.O.U., which we hold! The other "winners" were not quite so generous; but they, too, bound themselves to make a substantial recognition of our representatives' "services"; although in the case of Mrs. Gold, the promise was made by deputy, as the lady herself was not "at home."

The next step was to get in personal touch with the "winners," and, with this object in view, on October 30th we sent each of them the following letter by registered post:—

> The Editor would be obliged if you would call here and see him personally any time on Monday next between three and five o'clock, in reference to your claim.

The first of the four conspirators to put in an appearance was Mr. "Williams." He soon broke down under cross-examination, and having, at our suggestion, taken a little time to consider his position, he ultimately "remembered" that his coupon had contained "only nineteen correct results." That, of course, was sufficient for our immediate purpose, and we were, for the moment, content to accept the following withdrawal of any claim to the £1,750 prize:—

> Only having 19 results correct, I don't wish to claim full twenty as stated as I am not entitled to do so. HARRY LEWIS WILLIAMS.

In order, however, that the man should be under no misapprehension, the Editor at once wrote him the following letter:—

> With reference to our conversation of yesterday, when, after several interviews, and much self-contradiction (of which, I may tell you a full note was taken) you ultimately admitted that you had not sent in 20 correct forecasts, and signed a letter to that effect, I wish you to understand clearly that we do not accept any of the various stories you told us, either as to your having correctly foretold 19 results, or anything else.

Since that time we have heard nothing more of "Williams," and having thus disposed of Trickster No. 1, "then"—in the words of the nursery rhyme—"there were three."

Next came No. 2, Mr. "F. Holland"—of Leicester! We had already clearly established the identity of this gentleman, and we are afraid he had anything but a comfortable time. The full note which, unknown to him, was taken of our two interviews makes very remarkable reading, and would, we are sure, have been of interest to the firm of solicitors who, as will appear, now came upon the scene. For "Mr. Holland" was obdurate, and having declined to make a clean breast of the matter, placed his claim in the hands of a firm of solicitors. And the correspondence which followed must tell the rest of the story. Here it is—prefaced by a letter we addressed to him the day after our interviews:

> With reference to our interviews yesterday, and to the various and self-contradictory statements you then made (of which, I may tell you, a full note was taken) in regard to your claim to participate in our £1,750 Football Prize, I strongly urge you, in your own best interest, to reconsider carefully the whole position and make up your mind to see me again on Monday next between 3 and 5 o'clock, and tell the whole truth. In any case, matters will have to be brought to a head after that day, and it will be entirely your own fault if unpleasant consequences ensue.

Then, on November 25th, came this letter from Messrs. Oswald Hanson and Smith, of 44, Hammersmith Road, London, W.:—

> We have been consulted by Mr. F. Holland, of No. 43, Maynard Road, Leicester, with regard to the fact that he won the sum of £437 10s. in the JOHN BULL Third Great Football Competition, as is announced in the issue of JOHN BULL of the 1st November, 1913.
>
> We understand that on our client applying for the prize money you declined to pay it, and made a general charge that he had been acting in collusion with somebody—a totally unfounded charge. Our client cannot do more than deny the charge as you have not yet given any particulars.
>
> We have instructions to apply to you for the amount mentioned, and to say that failing our client, or ourselves, receiving a remittance therefor by Friday morning, we are to issue a writ.

To this the Editor replied :—

I have your letter, in reference to the claim made by "Mr. F. Holland, of 43, Maynard Road, Leicester," for a share in our £1,750 Football prize. I think, in the best interests of your client, it is desirable that you should see me—and I shall be available any time on Thursday morning, at my City Office, 52, New Broad Street, E.C., between 11 and 1 o'clock, or at this address in the afternoon between 3.30 and 4.30.

Messrs. Oswald Hanson and Co., however, declined the suggested interview in the following terms :—

We thank you for your letter of the 11th instant, but do not purpose calling to see you.

If you are not prepared to pay the prize money we must issue the writ and have the matter settled by the Court.

The Editor replied on November 17th, giving the names of our solicitors, who would be pleased to accept service of the writ, and adding :—

It is right, however, that I should inform you, that unless such proceedings are instituted during the present week I shall deal with the matter in such way as I may consider the circumstances demand.

Nothing, however, happened, and, being now in a position to dispose of all four claims, we last week wrote to Messrs. Oswald Hanson and Co. the following letter :—

Having now completed our investigations into the claims of the four persons purporting to be the winners of the £1,750 prize in connection with our Third Football Competition of the present season, I have to inform you that I have disallowed the claim of your client, "F. Holland, of 43, Maynard Road, Leicester" (whose real name and address are known to us), on the ground of fraud. Up to the present your threat of an action has not materialised, and this letter is to inform you that we are now proceeding to allocate the stipulated prizes to the *bona fide* competitors coming nearest to the actual results of the twenty matches in question.

"Then there were two." "Mr. Jackson" was more shy of putting in an appearance. In response to our invitation, he sent us a solicitors' letter, Messrs. Scholes and Farrington, of 49, Princess Street, Manchester, writing us as follows, under date October 31st :—

Mr. W. Jackson, of Douglas Hotel, Manchester, is one of our clients and we are pleased to see that you have awarded him a prize of £437 10s. in your Third Great Football Competition. Mr. Jackson called to-day and showed us your letter of the 30th instant asking him to call upon you on Monday next—which is quite impossible, as he has business appointments which will keep him in Manchester for several weeks. We therefore suggested that we should ask our London agents, Messrs. Coad and Cox, Solicitors, of 27 and 28, Old Jewry, E.C., to call upon you and they will do so at 3 o'clock on Monday next. We have sent our agents Mr. Jackson's written authority to receive the cheque, and to give you a receipt.

The next day Messrs. Coad and Cox sent us this letter :—

Our client, Mr. W. Jackson, of Douglas Hotel, Manchester, has given us instructions and written authority to receive on his behalf the sum of £437 10s. won by him in your Football Competition.

He has asked us to call on you at 3 o'clock on Monday next, the 3rd inst., which we will do.

We duly saw a member of the firm, and, as will be gathered from the following letter, written by the Editor, had an interesting conversation with him :—

With reference to the interview I have had with your London agents yesterday, I hope they have made our position quite clear. As I told them, we have reason to regard, with very grave suspicion, the claim put forward by Mr. Jackson, and it is essential, in the interests of other competitors (and having regard to my position as Trustee of the Prize Fund) that I should have an opportunity of testing its *bona fides*, which can be satisfactorily done only by a personal interview. As I informed your agents, we are quite willing to pay Mr. Jackson's expenses to town, and also to recompense him for any loss of time, in the event of his establishing his claim.

It would no doubt to some extent help us, and considerably modify our suspicions, if you, in your professional capacity, could give us an assurance as to Mr. Jackson's exact identity and standing, which, in view of the fact that your letter begins with the somewhat special statement that "Mr. W. Jackson, of Douglas Hotel, Manchester, is one of our clients"—from which phrase I assume that you have not just been instructed by him for the first time—you should have no difficulty in doing.

The next we heard was that Mr. Jackson would call upon us, at an appointed hour, with Messrs. Coad and Cox, but, alas! although a member of that firm duly put in an appearance, and waited half an hour, no Mr Jackson turned up. The fact was that he had become aware that the game was up, and the following day we received this short but eloquent note :—

I hereby withdraw my claim to any share of the Prize Money in your Football Competition No. 3.

"Then there was one"!—and she the toughest of the lot. But for her obstinacy, and "illness," the story we are now telling would have been published some weeks ago. Immediately after the decision of the matches comprised in the competition, she had written claiming the prize, but when our representative called at her address she was "up in town for a few days"; whilst in answer to our invitation to call upon us, she wrote :—

Re your registered letter, I fully expected cheque enclosed; should have called when in town, but, unfortunately had to return to Brighton sooner than I anticipated, through having contracted a chill which brought on sciatica and lumbago, and am confined to the bed. Sorry I did not see your representative Should you care to call or send I will defray expenses

I was rather elated on knowing I was one of the lucky competitors, and have had batches of congratulatory letters and also plenty for donation.

Excuse pencil—I am unable to sit up properly.

She, however, deputed a relative to interview us and receive the cash, arming him with an authority to receive her cheque.

The relative, a young nephew, duly called, and as will be gathered from the following letter, written by the Editor after the interview, the young man had to listen to some plain language :—

With reference to the interview I had with your nephew yesterday, I hope he has made our position quite clear to you. I am sorry to say that, from information in our possession, we are obliged to view your claim with considerable suspicion—which suspicion can only be removed by means of a personal interview. I trust, therefore, you may be well enough to come and see me on Monday next, between 3 and 5 o'clock, but should such, unfortunately, not be the case, I propose making an appointment to attend, with certain special representatives and go into the matter with you fully at home. We will also bring with us a responsible medical practitioner, in order to see that you run no risk of injury to your health by the interview.

This brought yet another solicitor on the scene—Mr. Alex Ross, of 15, Basinghall Street, E.C.—who wrote us, under date November 7th :—

Mrs. Gold, of 5, Bedford Place, Brighton, has instructed me to act for her in the matter of her claim and has handed me your letter to her of the 4th inst. with the other papers. On her behalf I regret the course you are taking as expressed in the tone of your letter. Mrs. Gold is quite unable from the state of her health to call on you as you suggest The address of her doctor (Mr. T. W. J. Ladall) is 29, York Place, Brighton, and he has appointed Monday next, the 10th inst., at 1.30 p.m., at the residence of my client for you to interview her. His fee of £1 1s. you will of course be ready to hand him. I need not tell you that beyond satisfying your doctor as to the state of her health I cannot allow any questions to be put to her without my presence regarding

her claim and the merits of same. This point no doubt you will appreciate.

To this the Editor replied :—

I have your letter in reference to the claim made by Mrs. Gold, for a share in our £1,750 Football Prize, and would suggest that it would be in your client's best interest for you to see me in regard to the matter. I shall be at my City office, 52, New Broad Street, E.C., to-morrow (Tuesday) morning, from 11 till 1 o'clock, and again on Thursday morning between those hours, and, as you are close by, perhaps you might care to give me a call.

At this interview we told Mr. Ross what had happened in regard to the claims of the three other "winners," and pointed out that if his client's claim was genuine she was entitled to the whole £1,750. But we made no secret of our suspicions, and insisted upon a personal interview with the lady. After some days he wrote :—

I have been expecting to hear from you since my interview with you Thursday week and also to be informed that the promised arrest had been made with regard to the other three persons claiming a share in the JOHN BULL Football Competition with my client. In fact, I have been expecting to receive on behalf of my client a cheque for £1,750. Kindly let me have same at your early convenience.

I may inform you that my client is dangerously ill, suffering from Bright's disease and heart failure, and further advice has been called in a consultation being to-day with her present doctor and an eminent physician.

To this the Editor replied on November 25th :—

I have your letter of the 22nd inst., and am sorry that until Mrs. Gold is in a position to be interviewed it is impossible for me to do anything further in the matter, so far as she is concerned.

As regards the other claimants to the prize in question, two have formally withdrawn their claims, the third is apparently doing nothing to substantiate his—and whatever steps we may be contemplating in the matter will be announced in due course.

Meanwhile, the whole amount of the prize money is being kept intact in a Suspense Account.

I am bound, however, to repeat what I have already told you, namely, that I have reason to view Mrs. Gold's claim with the very gravest suspicion.

Mrs. Gold then, apparently, changed her mind regarding an interview, Mr. Ross writing on Dec. 1st :—

I have received a letter from my client this morning informing me that she is prepared to see you at her residence at Brighton at 3 o'clock on Thursday with me. Kindly let me know that you will be there. Failing any satisfactory arrangement being forthwith come to, I must at once act on my instructions and shall be glad to have the names of your solicitors, who will accept service of process on your behalf.

We were now, at last, getting to close quarters, and Mr. Ross evidently thought it was the psychological moment for "rubbing it in," for he at once wrote :—

I wrote you a letter this afternoon. I should have mentioned in my letter that I had been informed by another firm of solicitors that they were also commencing proceedings to recover the share of the prize money due to their client, and this fact I intended to inform you through the 'phone, and also that, subsequent to my letter to you, on behalf of my client I had received from my counsel (Mr. W. S. M. Knight) draft statement of claim duly settled by him, so that I trust, to avoid the proceedings threatened, you will not delay for a moment in giving me your definite "yes" or "no" in the matter.

The Editor at once replied :—

I have your letter of the 1st instant, and am glad to gather that Mrs. Gold is now sufficiently convalescent to permit of our examining her as to the *bona fides* of the claim she has made in connection with our Football Competition.

Three o'clock is a little inconvenient to me, but I shall be pleased to meet you at 4.15, or, if convenient to you, to go down with you by the 3.10 from Victoria. Perhaps you will kindly confirm this?

This Mr. Ross acknowledged in the following terms :

I am in receipt of yours of to-day and will meet you at my client's residence at 4.15, the time you name, on Thursday. I or my representative will arrive by an earlier train.

Mr. Ross, however, was not aware of what was happening. Whilst he was consulting counsel as to the form of the statement of claim, we were interviewing Mrs. Gold's confederate, whom we had kept under close observation, and on the eve of the proposed meeting he, under stress of cross-examination, and in view of the evidence we had secured, made a written confession—which we hold—and, in our presence, wrote Mrs. Gold that the game was up. We were not at all surprised, therefore, at receiving the following from Mr. Ross :—

I have just telephoned you postponing the appointment made with you to see Mrs. Gold to-day on two telegrams received this morning from Brighton and which I read out to your clerk. The contents thereof are respectively as follows :—"Stop appointment too bad doctor's orders." "Stop interview with B. Bad news." Up to the present this is all the information I have but will write you as soon as I hear further.

To this the Editor replied :—

I duly received your letters of the 2nd and 4th inst. The "bad news" referred to in Mrs. Gold's second telegram probably relates to her having learnt that her accomplice (whose identity has been known to us for some time) had made a full confession.

I do not propose at the moment to say what other steps we may take in connection with the matter.

And then there was none!

So much for the football fraud that failed. How the clumsy trick was engineered it is not necessary to explain. Sufficient to say that, in no circumstances, could it have succeeded. In order, however, to prevent the possibility of any further *attempt*, we are now formulating a fresh rule, which will be found by reference to our Competition page next week. As regards those who participated in the futile conspiracy—they may be left to us. The point is that the interests of our readers have been effectually protected—"*You can't catch* JOHN BULL! And it only now remains for us to award the prize of £500 for the nearest forecasts of the results of the matches. The further scrutiny shows that the following readers divide this sum, they having given 19 correct results :—

WILLIAM SHINGLER, 18, Farrance Street, Limehouse, London, E.
W. C. STEEL, 8, Baden Street, West Hartlepool.
A. J. WALTON, 41, Birch Street North, Wolverhampton.
THOMAS PAYNE, 15, Stanley Pits, near Crook, Co. Durham.
JOHN WILLIAMS, 1, Sylscock Place, Treorchy, Glamorgan.
THOS. RUSSELL, 89, Evelina Road, Nunhead, S.E.

A cheque for £83 6s. 8d. has been duly posted to each.

The £100 for the second best forecast has been divided between 50 readers, who gave 18 results correctly—a cheque for £2 having been sent to each of them. A list of the winners may be inspected at our offices, or one will be forwarded to any applicant enclosing stamped addressed envelope for the purpose.

The £50 for the most correct mauve—or *Mary Bull*—coupon stands as already announced.

As in the case of our "Bullets," we offer a reward of £1,000 to any person who can prove that we have not, in any case, paid the full amount of the advertised Prize Money to *all* our Football or other Prizewinners.

Next week we shall announce the biggest Football Competition ever offered by any journal—in connection with the first round for the English Cup, which will also decide the first round prize in the JOHN BULL Football Sweepstake, the Managers of which, Messrs. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, Switzerland, have added £750 to our own Prize Fund.

In view of this additional evidence of the *bona fides* of our great Football Competitions, we invite our readers to make the next contest a record.

THE MODERN DANCE OF DEATH.

WINING AND DINING WHILE SEAMEN DROWN

One of the most powerful pictures in literature is that describing the ribald revels with which some of the courtiers of the period endeavoured, in a barred and shuttered castle, to forget their dread of the Plague—the culminating horror being the appearance in their midst of a sardonic stranger clad in red velvet, who, on unmasking, showed the death's head—the panic-stricken wretches finding that in effectively stopping all means of entrance they had also prevented their own escape from a hideous fate. We wonder whether any recollection of this incident crossed the minds of the portentious and pretentious officials who have lately been receiving the foreign delegates to the International Conference to discuss the loss of life at sea and devise precautions for the prevention of such calamities as have recently shocked the public mind, when participating in the round of gaiety with which the proceedings were initiated. The guzzling over, the first step was to take care that the sittings should be conducted in secret. We are not surprised—it is essentially to the interests of the "Board's" sapheads that such incidents as the following should not obtain publicity.

A week or two ago an inquest was held at Llandudno on a seaman drowned off Little Orme's Head. It appeared from the evidence that he was serving on board the steamer *Comber*, a vessel which had left the hands of its builders as recently as September 18th. The Board of Trade duly passed the vessel, and their Surveyor's certificate was produced at the inquest. The duty of that official was, of course to see that the boats were in good order, properly stowed, and efficiently equipped. However, on the dinghy being lowered she began to fill as soon as she left the ship's side, and soon sank, drowning one of her three occupants. After the accident the boat was tested, when it was found that she filled to the beam in six minutes. The local Superintendent of the Board of Trade held an inquiry and made an entry in the ship's log as to the cause of death, adding that "No further inquiry was necessary"! Therefore, had no inquest been held this extraordinary scandal would in all probability have been hushed up. The Coroner sarcastically said, in his summing-up, that "even Board of Trade inspectors learnt by experience." We are afraid, however, that—despite the immense cost of the process, in the shape of the lives of those entrusted to their care—it is hopeless to look for any improvement in the dunderheaded officials. Nor do we anticipate much good resulting from the Coroner's verbal castigation of the official in default—"No creature smarts so little as a fool."

It would appear that the appalling state of the boat—which, by the bye, was carried in excess of the regulations, and was therefore humorously described as a "safety boat"—was due to it having been stowed over an opening in the funnel-casing, the great heat causing the seams to gape. This, however, affords no excuse to the Board's Surveyor, who, among other things, certified that the boats were "properly stowed."

TUBE TOMFOOLERY.

A WORD WITH THE DIRECTORS OF THE PICCADILLY LINE.

Mr. Lloyd George has a rival in the Brompton-Piccadilly Tube people. Their offer is threepence for sixpence. A passenger from Covent Garden to Hammersmith had the misfortune to lose temporarily his ticket. In order that he should not block up the gangway at the barrier he paid the threepenny fare again, taking a formal receipt. Almost immediately he found the ticket, and therefore presented it with the receipt, asking for the return of the threepence. It was politely but firmly refused. "The only way you can get the money back," said an official, "is by going to the office at St. James's Park Station." As the return fare from Hammersmith to St. James's Park is sixpence, it is not to be wondered that the passenger sent us the two vouchers, with an account of the incident, asking what we think about it. Ridiculous red-tapism. But perhaps not so ridiculous after all, as it brings grist to the Company's mill.

A RASCALLY RING.

BRITISH TRADERS CRUSHED BY YANKEE COMBINE.

Our references to the machinations of the Imperial Tobacco Company have prompted a Lancashire reader to forward us particulars of hardships he has himself endured at the hands of the Anglo-American Oil Company, a branch of the Standard Oil Trust. Some years ago he successfully established himself at Burnley as a wholesale dealer in petroleum. He was thus fair game to the Anglo-American people, who soon appeared upon the scene. They established a tank depot in close proximity to our correspondent's premises, with the result that in a short time his trade was entirely squeezed out, and he was reduced to the necessity of hawking oil from door to door. By dint of pluck and perseverance, however, he managed in time to acquire a large connection among the householders of Burnley, and was looking to retrieve some part of his lost fortune, when the Anglo-American Company again intervened with an offer to supply retail customers with oil in five-gallon jars. This stroke worked havoc among independent dealers, and our friend was once more on the rocks. Driven to his knees by repeated misfortune, he appealed to the Company for consideration, and was appointed sole agent for the sale of their motor spirit in the borough of Burnley. The better to discharge his duties, he went to considerable expense in the erection of storage premises, but for some years, despite his utmost efforts, the returns of the business were so small as barely to afford him the means of sub sistence. At length, when his strenuous labours had overcome initial difficulties and launched the enterprise upon the tide of success, the shameless cunning of the Company's plan was made apparent. They announced that they would in future dispense with agents and distribute their petrol direct. No vestige of compensation was offered to those who had weathered the storm of competition and discovered markets for the wares of the Trust. These mighty combinations, with their "scientific" methods, know neither humanity nor compassion. The facts related by our correspondent afford a striking refutation of the prevalent notion that the malignant operations of the Standard Oil Trust are confined to the American continent. It is monstrous that a gang of unprincipled Yankee goldbugs—headed by the arch-hypocrite Rockefeller—should be permitted to ride rough shod over every British instinct of justice and fair play.

THE LADY AND THE LICENCE.

NORFOLK MAGISTRATES' DOUR DECISION.

The Rollesby (Norfolk) Magistrates seem to administer their particular brand of justice pure, and undefiled by any admixture of mercy. The other day Mrs. Drummond, a Norwich lady, was haled before them on a charge of driving a motor car without a licence. A local constable, doubtless elated at his capture, triumphantly deposed to seeing her drive up to an hotel, where she handed over control to her husband. When challenged to produce her licence she prevaricated—as the ladies so often do, bless their dear hearts!—by saying that she had left it at home. Shortly after, however, she visited a superior police official and confessed that she did not hold the necessary permit, expressed her sorrow for the deception, and explained that she had taken the licence out immediately following the offence. It appeared that she had driven the car merely for half-a-mile "and thought she would be clever enough to drive it into the yard."

In these circumstances, it seems rather hard that Mrs. Drummond should have been fined £3 and 10s. costs—the maximum penalty is but £5—especially as she underwent a humiliating ordeal in Court, lasting nearly an hour. At the end of the proceedings she broke down, and amid sobs explained that she had only £3 with her—doubtless not expecting that what is usually regarded, even in the case of male culprits, as a comparatively venial offence, would be treated with such harshness. Possibly some of the lights of the Rollesby Bench are rabid teetotalers, and thought that the attempt to take the car into the yard of the inn aggravated the crime.

Your Last Chance to Win £1,800 for Easy Football Forecasts. See page 911.

REVEREND REDGRAVE'S RETRIBUTION.

THE CURIOUS CONSCIENCE OF A CONSISTORY COURT.

During the comparatively short career of this journal we have been the means of exposing and ousting from their sacred profession at least a score of hypocrites belonging to most of the leading denominations—posing as "spiritual guides." In each case the task was undertaken at the request of either officials or members of the different congregations, who came to us only when the ecclesiastical authorities had remained obdurate. The task was never a pleasant one; and it has always led to much misunderstanding on the part of readers ignorant of the true circumstances.

One of the cases we tackled was that of the Rev. Hyma H. Redgrave, Vicar of St. Paul's, Burslem. It will be remembered that nearly eight months ago we were approached by members of the congregation with a plea that we should assist them to get rid of their Vicar, who, by his conduct, was scandalising the parish. They explained to us that they had repeatedly appealed to the Bishop, without effect. We at once despatched our Special Commissioner to Burslem. His inquiries extended over several days, the result being our article entitled "The Pachydermatous Pottery Parson," which contained all the material facts of which the general press have lately been making such a sensation.

Upon the publication of our article, Mr. Redgrave tried to hide his identity by changing his name and living away from his flock. But, obviously, things had become too warm, and eventually he came before the Consistory Court. No one can say that such a tribunal is likely to be prejudiced against a clerical defendant. It is composed of three ecclesiastics and two laymen closely connected with the Church; an analogy would be an engine-driver tried for some breach of discipline by three of his own calling and two stokers. Let us review the case, taking only

REDGRAVE'S ADMISSIONS

when before the Court. Amongst his parishioners he had a woman named Gater. He attended her on her deathbed, and at her request promised to take her daughter Hannah, aged 17, and look after her. He could not describe her position upon first entering his house, but eventually she became his adopted daughter. She used to sit on his knee, and they exchanged kisses. He obligingly brought an early cup of tea to her bedroom, and he would take her on little clandestine excursions. Eventually things grew uncomfortable at the Vicarage—his own children becoming jealous—so he took apartments for Hannah, where, sitting at tea, he would pat her hands and caress her; he also spent several hours daily with her "wrapping circulars." She would address him as "Hyma" and "Dad," and he would call her "Dear." When he kissed her, he did it in the good old-fashioned style, right between the lips—"I should not think I had kissed her properly if I had not kissed her on the lips," he said. He wrote a lying letter to a Mr. Mountford, asking him to allow his wife to accompany the girl to London, and stating that they would be met by some of his friends, who would look after them and show them the sights; they were not, however, met by anybody, but Redgrave himself accompanied them. While in the metropolis he bought the girl an evening dress, saw it fitted on her, and took her to the theatre. During the time she was under his charge, she had two companions, engaged by Redgrave. One misconducted herself with the curate and the other had a child and afterwards got married. Redgrave also bought the girl three small houses, worth about £1,000. After our exposure he lived in the same house with Hannah Gater, under an assumed name, at both Stafford and Leicester, and at the latter place the curate's partner in immorality resided there too!

FINDING OF THE COURT AND DEDUCTIONS.

We have merely epitomised the Vicar's own story. He was charged with adultery and "immoral conduct." The Court mercifully found him guilty of the latter only. Had we had the cross-examining of Redgrave, we should have asked him what he knew of the girl while she was still under her mother's care, and how it came about that he should undertake to adopt the child. What was wrong with the father? We should also have gone into the question of finance with him; *and, lastly, we should have invited Hannah to submit herself to medical examination.*

It is clear that the man must be unfrocked.

THE RACKETY RAJAH OF KAPURTHALA.

SMUGGLED WHITE GIRL—CONNIVANCE OF INDIA OFFICE.

(Our article in last week's issue dealt with the purchase by the Rajah of a white dancing girl, and with extraordinary incidents which occurred at Paris and Madrid.)

The fascination of the Spanish dancing girl Anita Delgado was irresistible. After kissing her good-bye in Paris in November, 1907, we find the Maharajah a month later installed in his palace at Kapurthala—with only native beauties to comfort him. He soon longed for Anita again, with her pink and white flesh, lingerie confections, and Paris perfumes. So he set his Oriental brain to work out a scheme to get the girl out to India. At this period the principal lady of the harem was a native beauty the Rajah had brought from a hill tribe, and it came to her knowledge that she had a rival. There were high words between herself and the Rajah. The quarrel, however, did not last long, for the girl died rather suddenly—having drank herself to death. The great stumbling-block, however, in the way of the Maharajah achieving his object was the Indian Government. On previous occasions they had been instrumental in stopping white girls from going to the Kapurthala harem. In taking this action it was not so much the girls' protection they were concerned about, as the prestige of the white women in India. The situation is perhaps difficult to realise in this country, but a moment's reflection upon the fact that a mere handful of Englishmen—a percentage of whom are married—have to hold in check and govern some millions of natives will explain the Indian Government's desire to keep the white women, as it were, sacred. We do not hold India by force of arms alone. This point of view has lately been emphasised by the Indian authorities, who have forbidden Miss Maud Allan performing before a native, or mixed, audience. Accordingly the Rajah laid his plans very carefully. In his service he had a confidential European attendant (who spoke several languages) and his wife, who had acted as governess to the Prince's children. The wife had been left behind in Paris to look after Anita, and it was to her that the following letter was despatched:—

> This will be the last letter you will receive from us before you leave.
>
> His Highness hopes that all his instructions will be carried out to the letter.
>
> It is well understood that you leave Brussels on the 16th, arriving at Paris the same day, staying the night there, and leaving the following morning for Marseilles, where you will stay the night, and then take the boat the morning of the 18th.
>
> Pay attention not to miss and arrive here safe. Be very discreet as to your identity, all of you, and do your utmost to *conserve your incognito.*
>
> His Highness also desires that you pay great attention to Madam's food, and, above all, that she does not eat any potted conserves, nor drink any impure water. Should you land at Port Said do not let her drink or eat anything there. It is probable that his Highness may send your husband to join you at Bombay.

It will be noticed that the Rajah was particularly careful to give instructions about Anita's food. The underlying reason was that he had fear of her being poisoned, this being a favourite mode of getting rid of people in India. As to how they managed to run the gauntlet of the quay officials, we had better, for the moment, remain silent. Suffice it to say that the party eventually reached Kapurthala. Then the fun commenced. Anita had developed ideas. She demanded not only that she should be first favourite, but refused to have any understudy. She would have all the Rajah—or none of him. Then the six ladies of the harem had their little say, and eventually the distracted prince had to get a big stick. In another apartment the confidential European servants were earnestly discussing the breaking of the Indian Penal Code, and outside the palace the native population were criticising the unwelcome new arrival. Truly, matters were looking very black. The whole harem had been dismissed by Anita—and, in the end, as already announced, she insisted upon becoming the Rajah's lawful bride. We have only to add that all the facts of the case were known to the India Office, in turn, which did its best to hush the matter up.

Result of Our 5th Football Contest. List of Winners on page 885.

A VERY DEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.

DIRECTORS' DISASTROUS DERELICTION OF DUTY.

Older members of the Independent Order of Foresters have a palpable grievance. The Order has an extensive membership, not only in this country but in Canada and the United States of America, and a recent valuation of its life assurance assets and liabilities, conducted by the Canadian Government, revealed a lamentable deficit upon the credit side of these accounts. It was thus clear that immediate steps must be taken to reinforce the assets. This end has been attained by the imposition of stiff levies upon all members who took out life policies prior to the year 1899. These imposts may be discharged outright or may remain as a lien upon the policies, bearing interest at four per cent. In either case they involve distinct hardship to members who have for many years past contributed to the funds in implicit reliance upon the soundness of the Society's actuarial position. The new scheme has been sanctioned by the governing body of the Order, and clothed with the force of law by an Act of the Canadian legislature; but there is acute dissension among the rank and file, and widespread secession will doubtless follow the application of the revised scheme.

A Dingwall correspondent, who joined the Order in 1897, and is thus subject to the foregoing provision, furnishes us with a graphic illustration of its oppressive incidence. The policy standing in his name entitles his representative to £200 at death, or on attaining the age of 70. He has already paid £60 in pursuance of the original scheme. A levy of £39 4s. is now chargeable against his policy. He estimates that by the time his claim matures he will have paid, in interest and contributions, a further total of £150 12s. 6d., which, with the £60 already spent, will make £210 in all. At 70, should he live so long, he will be entitled to £200, less the amount of the levy now imposed. In round figures, having actually saved £210, he will draw out £160—£50 less than he has paid in. Needless to say, he will not pursue so profitless a plan. He will withdraw from the Society, thus forfeiting the whole benefit of his paid-up contributions. Friendly societies know nothing of "surrender values."

Our correspondent's case is typical of many, and the whole business is a reproach to the management of the Order, who ought, years ago, to have taken adequate steps for the prevention of such a crisis as has now arisen.

In accepting contributions towards schemes of assurance which they must or should have known to be actuarily unsound, they were guilty of a gross breach of duty towards their older members, many of whom have laboured long and strenuously for the success and progress of the Order. The credit of the Directors is scarcely enhanced by the fact that even now their activity is in no way due to their own initiative. What might have happened but for the intervention of the Canadian Government will hardly bear contemplation.

A LUNATIC'S LAMENT.

HOW A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHOULD QUALIFY.

In view of the approaching General Election the following letter will, no doubt, be read with interest. It is addressed from a small village in Essex :—

> Perhaps you have never had an interview with a real live lunatic; if so, now is your chance of having that honour conferred upon you. I wish to place before you—and am willing to listen to any arguments you may offer on the matter—my proposals for the business training of a prospective member of Parliament. Briefly, they are that no man should be allowed to sit as a member of the House of Commons who has not been six months in a lunatic asylum, six months in the workhouse, and six months in prison.

Our friend goes on to say that he has been a guest of his Majesty in each of these public institutions, and that the knowledge he has gained of the methods by which the taxpayers are defrauded of money is "extensive and peculiar." While we have no doubt as to his claim to be possessed of first-hand evidence, we are sorry that we cannot fall in with his tutorial proposal. Why doesn't he start with the municipal bodies—on the principle of trying it on the dog?

TOO EAGER!

THE "FIVER," THE £6 CASH CAPITAL, AND THE £335 DEBT.

The following advertisement recently appeared in one of the journals devoted to automobile matters :—

> MOTOR INDUSTRIES.—Capital found for development of businesses, inventions, and schemes; companies formed, shares placed.—Monelles, Ltd., 27-28, King William Street, E.C. (Established 1882.)

A North London reader who desired to form a company replied to the announcement, and had interviews with Mr. Monelle and a Mr. Broad. Mr. Monelle suggested that our correspondent should pay down £5 to cover the cost of printing, etc., but as there seemed to be no guarantee that the desired formation would then take place, while that gentleman's personal appearance was not impressive and he seemed too willing to agree to anything, the client became suspicious and finally asked our advice. It is that he should keep his money in his pocket. Monelles attempt in their advertisement to inspire confidence by the statement "Established 1882." The concern, however, was not registered until January, 1911, and even then was not the incorporation of an older one—for the object of the Company is stated in the Memorandum of Association to be "*to found and establish*" the business of investment agents, etc. In the Articles, Mr. John James Monelle is appointed the first and Managing Director—entitled to hold office until he resigns, though he has not one farthing invested in the Company. In him, too, rests the power of appointing any other Director or Directors. The nominal capital is £1,500, divided into £1 shares, but no more than six of these appear ever to have been taken up and paid for; whilst against the £6 cash funds there is a mortgage debenture in favour of Mrs. Kate Monelle, of 38, Kingsdown Parade, Bristol, for £335 on the "real and personal property and assets of the Company, present and future, including uncalled captal."

'Nuff said!

THE MAN-MAKERS.

TEARING TROUSERS AND PULLING LEGS.

We have been following with a great deal of interest the illuminating discussion at the last meeting of the Battle (Sussex) Guardians on the present state of the workhouse porter's trousers. Indeed, we know nothing which appeals more to the heart and mind and conscience of the individual citizen in any sphere of life than the state of his trousers; truly, to modernise old William of Wykeham—trousers makyth man! We are, therefore, exceedingly gratified that the strenuous oratorical exertions of Lady Mabelle Egerton and one or two other members have had their effect. "Parker's supporters," says the reporter of the remarkable meeting of the Board, "declined to let the matter drop." Had it been allowed to drop even for an instant we can only say that the Chairman would have been responsible for the appalling disaster, and would have regretted it for long years to come.

We understand the present position is that the Chairman, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Burton and Mr. Saver have been constituted a Special Committee to make full inquiries concerning the matter.

From our enterprising contemporary, the *Mail*, we gather that the famous nether garments really consist of holes which cannot be sewn together; that Parker told the interviewer who sought his opinion over the hedge of the workhouse garden, that "they are at home, absolutely done for." Therefore, conscious of that fellow-feeling which, as the poet says, makes us wondrous kind, we put it to the Chairman that a workhouse porter who has to leave his trousers at home and talk behind a hedge needs more sympathy than inquiry. It is evident he is unutterably *de trop*, and that whether the Special Committee make inquiries while he is behind the hedge or call upon his trousers at their private residence, the time has come for Parker to be rehabilitated in the respect and confidence of his colleagues and customers at the workhouse and his friends and relations at home and abroad. We trust that the Board will acquaint him of their favourable decision without undue delay, as a spell of cold may set in at any moment.

The Ideal Christmas Gift: A "John Bull" Pen. See Coupon on page iii. of cover

LEEDS SANITARY SCANDAL.

CITY COUNCIL'S WANTON DEFIANCE OF THE LAW.

Mr. John A. Simpson, of Pasture Farm, Stainbeck Lane, Leeds, prefers a formidable indictment against the Leeds City Council. Says he in a memorandum presented to the Local Government Board :—

> I came here in August, 1911, the drains and the tanks being choked with matter from the bath, slopstone, etc., in the house. This condition of things went on until June of the year, 1912, and during the dry weather of May, matters reached a pitch that the stench was unbearable, and my wife, a strong woman of thirty-five years of age, contracted typhoid fever in a virulent form, and in spite of medical skill she died on July 7th of that year from primary typhoid, as per medical certificate.

Despite his tragic bereavement, Mr. Simpson develops his case with coolness and moderation. He asserts that the insanitary condition of his farm was well-known to the Council's Health Inspectors. They paid repeated visits to the premises during the months preceding his wife's illness and death. In consequence of their reports, the City Medical Officer called twice at the farm, making an exhaustive survey of the drainage conditions.

At the instance of the Local Government Board, the Leeds City Council have attempted a reply to these searching charges. Their observations should be read in conjunction with the summary of Mr. Simpson's memorandum :—

> Though aware of grave defects in the drainage of Pasture Farm, the officials were debarred from remedial activity by long-standing accumulations of manure. Mr. Simpson was required to remove these accretions, but there was considerable delay, and it was thus impossible to commence active operations until after the outbreak of typhoid in June, 1912.
>
> Despite the grave conditions set out in paragraph 2 above, Mr. Simpson expressed a desire that the matter should be amicably adjusted between himself and the landlord's agent, without the intervention of the Health Authority. This was in February, 1912. The shockingly insanitary state of the farm was therefore not reported to the Sanitary Committee of the City Council till April of the same year, a circumstance which affords a further explanation of delay which might else appear inexcusable.
>
> The drainage work was actually begun on June 4th, 1912. The notification of the case of typhoid was received by the Medical Officer on June 27th.

We have extracted from the Council's memorandum every item which can conceivably be regarded as relevant to the charges preferred by Mr. Simpson. We propose, moreover, to accept the defence at its face value, neither questioning its accuracy nor impugning its *bona fides*.

In fairness to Mr. Simpson it should be stated that he strenuously denies certain salient items in the Council's plea. In the public interest, however, it is our duty to propound certain questions to which the ratepayers of Leeds should demand an answer :—

> In view of Mr. Simpson's alleged refusal to remove accumulations of manure which might readily become a source of disease, why was this work not promptly undertaken by the authority responsible for the public health of the district?
>
> Since when has it been the avowed policy of the Leeds Sanitary Authority to postpone action imposed upon them by law in deference to the wishes of interested parties?
>
> In view of the fact that on their own showing the disgraceful state of affairs at Pasture Farm was discussed by the Sanitary Committee in April, 1912, why was no effective action taken till June 16th of that year?

For the irrelevancies with which the Council has endeavoured to obscure a plain issue, we have neither time nor space. One extract from their memorandum, however, calls for verbatim quotation ;—

> From time to time friction has arisen owing to the Inspectors pressing owners strongly for the carrying out of works at property when the owners were willing to effect the alterations without statutory notice having been served. The Inspectors have therefore been instructed to permit matters to be arranged between tenant and owner when possible, and it was on this account that the original delay in this matter arose.

This shameless confession of duty neglected discloses a cynical indifference to the plain requirements of the law. Disease may arise, life may be sacrificed, but still there must be scope for "amiable arrangement," and "friction" must at all costs be averted!

AN EMPLOYER'S PROTEST.

USEFUL COMMITTEE'S VEXATIOUS ACTION.

There is a Juvenile Advisory Committee in connection with each Labour Exchange, charged with the duty of assisting parents to find suitable situations for their children. These committees work in close conjunction with the Council Schools, and there can be no doubt that many boys and girls have been materially assisted by their efforts. In these circumstances we are a little loth to criticise their methods, but certain facts brought to our notice by the manager of a North London manufacturing firm appear to call for explanation.

Our correspondent has obtained the services of a number of lads through the agency of the Islington Labour Exchange. In every case, however, these boys have thrown up their berths at the end of six months, to be transferred to similar situations elsewhere through the instrumentality of the Exchange. Our correspondent has satisfied us that the pay and prospects of lads in his employ compare favourably with those of other juvenile workers. The last boy to give notice, though only fourteen years of age, was earning 7s. 6d. per week, and he frankly informed his employers that he was in no way dissatisfied with his situation, but was leaving because his mother told him to do so. Puzzled by this curious state of affairs, the manager instituted inquiries, and learned that a lady was in the habit of visiting the homes of boys placed in employment by the Exchange, to collect information as to their wages and conditions of labour. Scenting a possible explanation of the annoyance to which he had been subjected, our correspondent at once broached the matter to the Superintendent of the Islington Exchange. He received a reply from the Secretary to the Advisory Committee, who admitted that he had received reports from the lady visitor in question. No further information was vouchsafed, and here, for the moment, the matter rests, our correspondent having determined to employ no more lads through the agency of any Labour Exchange.

The matter is a somewhat serious one. If, as our informant is convinced, the loss of his juvenile employees is directly traceable to the action of the Advisory Committee, it certainly seems that they have been guilty of wholly unnecessary intermeddling. While in his service the lads received a measure of commercial training, and it was grossly unfair that he should be deprived of their services as soon as they began to be of use to him. The lads moreover have everything to lose and nothing to gain by frequent changes of employment. If officious interference of this sort is part of the settled policy of Advisory Committees, they will inevitably alienate the sympathy of employers of labour and thus injure the very interests which they have been appointed to serve.

THE CORPORAL AND THE CROWN.

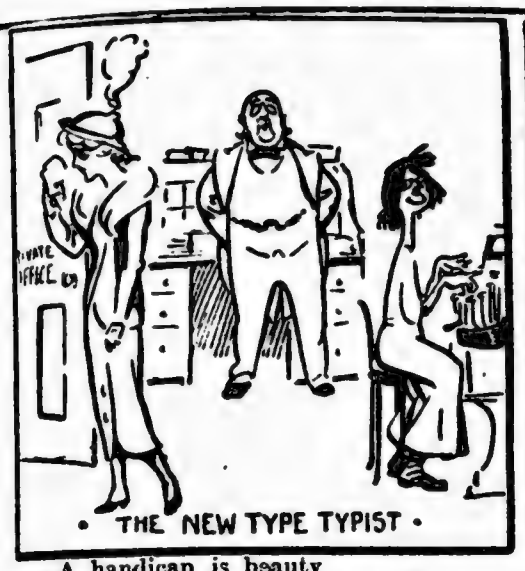
COMEDY AT LUDGATE HILL FLASH JEWELLERS.

The shoddy jewellery concern calling itself the Crown Emporium has been keeping rather quiet lately. However, it has broken out again in a fresh place. A corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps, noticing in the window of the Emporium's Ludgate Hill shop a brooch that took his fancy, walked inside. The article was ticketed "Worth 15s. 6d., now 5s."—the higher figure being crossed out. He picked out the trinket and proffered the crown—but the money was refused, the attendant declining to hand over the brooch for less than 15s. 6d. A somewhat animated conversation then ensued, the gallant corporal freely expressing his opinion of these tactics. The assistant threatened to throw the awkward customer out of the shop, but upon being invited to do so thought better of it. The soldier then capitulated with the honours of war, but induced a flower girl standing by to go in and demand the brooch—which had by this time been replaced in the window and still bore the ticket. She was, however, informed that it was "not for sale." A lady was then good enough to consent to try her luck—to be told yet a third tale—viz., that she could have it for a guinea! The concern evidently believes in being all things—and having all prices—for all men, and women.

Wanted! "Mary Bull" "Mauve" Coupons. TWO EXTRA Big Cash Football Prizes.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."



• THE NEW TYPE TYPIST •

A handicap is beauty
To girls who type for bread,
For plain ones do their duty
Much better, it is said.

• WILHELM IN A WACKES •

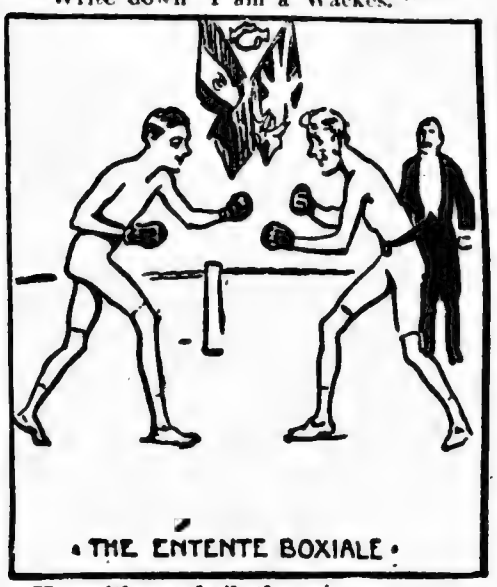
To punish the lieutenant
For his Zabern attacks,
Says Wilhelm: "Take your pen, and
Write down 'I am a Wackes.'"

• "SUPPER IS HOFF, SIR!" •

Here, *in the world's chief city*,
At half-past twelve at night,
Nor cash, nor love, nor pity,
Can purchase you a bite!

• ASQUITH'S ADVANCES •

Asquith at length seems ready
With Carson to confer,
And chases after Eddie—
We beg his pardon—Sir!



• THE ENTENTE BOXIALE •

Herewith we hail the winner,
Here's to the loser, too;
They both deserve a dinner
After what they've been through.

• TEMPTATION TO TREASON •

Some artful scum with promised pay
Our sailors try to bribe;
I'll lay you two to one that they
Are of the German tribe.

COTTON-WOOL CONSTABLES.

DERBY BOROUGH POLICE SCANDAL.

When a young fellow joins the Derby police he is given a lecture by a superior officer, in the course of which he is told that the motto of the force is "Help one another." In a few weeks, however, he gets an eye-opener, for he discovers that there is a certain clique which obtains all the fat jobs. There is, therefore, smouldering discontent, which may break out at any moment into open rebellion if matters are allowed to continue as at present.

The rank and file particularly complain that preference is being given to certain of their comrades when opportunity occurs to earn extra remuneration at balls, parties, dinners and race-meetings. Of course, not only is additional pay obtained for this work, but substantial tips are often given. The grievance is that, year in and year out, the same old faces can be seen on these occasions whilst the less-favoured constables have to perform ordinary beat duty. As a rule, night duty men are engaged at the race-meetings. If, however, one of the "cotton wool brigade"—as they are termed—should be on day duty, he promptly asks to be allowed an extra turn of night work to enable him to take his place at the races—and the request is invariably granted. At a non-race period, though, if the same man should be warned for an extra turn of night duty, he usually promptly places himself on the sick list! Inspectors live at and are responsible for the various lock-ups, and each is allowed a constable to assist him. The allegation upon this point is that such a post is reserved for the man who is prepared to act as charwoman to Mrs. Inspector. We look to the Watch Committee to set matters right.

A MALTA MARTINET.

"DISCIPLINE" IN THE NORTHAMPTON REGIMENT.

Now that Col. Seely is adopting the practical plan of advertising the advantages of the Army in the public press, it is to be hoped that he will see that certain silly Commanding Officers do not frustrate his efforts to bring decent lads into the Service. Our notice has been drawn to one of these gentlemen. He is the Officer Commanding the 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment, stationed at Malta. He has quite a number of third-class shots in his regiment, and also a dozen daring spirits who refuse to be inoculated; he is determined to punish both. He tells the inferior marksmen on parade that they are obtaining money under false pretences from the Government, and makes their lives unbearable. In addition, he has had bills printed and posted throughout the barracks setting forth the regimental numbers and names of the men who have failed in the shooting test, adding the instruction: "These men are not to be employed." Those who dared to refuse inoculation he has treated in a more drastic manner, for to the list of their names which he has caused to be exhibited he has added to the ban as to employment the words, "nor to handle food or water for consumption of troops." This officer seems to be over-zealous. Few men are third-class shots from choice; they would almost all be marksmen if they could, but can no more help missing the bull's-eye than some Commanding Officers can help making asses of themselves. The proper way to improve a man's shooting is to give him more ammunition for practice—not to placard his name round the barracks; and the ideal manner to cure an officer of folly is to bring his foolishness home to him—and point out the remedy.

"Bullets" Cash Prizes Increased This Week. See page 918.

A MERRY JEST.

PUNISHING PANEL PATIENTS FOR PLAYING.

There reaches us, concerning the London National Insurance Committee, a funny story which Mr. Lloyd George may like to tell to the next meeting he addresses on the inestimable benefits of his Insurance Act

It runs thusly. A certain doctor in the neighbourhood of Stepney Green, E., certified a panel patient for sanatorium benefit, as he was suffering from early pulmonary tuberculosis. The other day the patient entered the consulting room, and explained his presence by saying that he with eleven other men, had been summarily discharged from the Downs Sanatorium, at Sutton, Surrey, for the flagrant offence—not of assaulting the Medical Superintendent, kissing the nurses, or kicking the cat—but for playing farthing nap

Knowing as we do Mr. Lloyd George's keen sense of humour, we are confident he will concede this as easily the most side-splitting joke perpetrated in the whole history of the Insurance Act, and that the Stiggins who has done it with the patronage and approval of the London Insurance Commissioners deserves at the least a bun or a biscuit as a slight token of appreciation of his bright and breezy contribution to the comic records of our island's story. The Chancellor must surely realise, that a man who can crack a joke of this kind to keep consumptives in cheerful spirits would feel at home grinning through a horse-collar at a funeral

JUDGE AND MILITARY.

ARE ARMY DOCUMENTS PRIVILEGED?

While on general principles we agree that officers too often defeat or interfere with the course of justice by refusing to produce Army documents, and while, too, we admire the vigour of the judge at Kent Assizes who threatened to make it hot for a lieutenant who at first declined to produce the defaulters' sheet in the witness box, we are wondering whether his lordship would be so vigorous, and would be accommodated so readily, if he had occasion to order Lord Roberts, General French, Lord Kitchener, or the War Minister himself, to produce a document which either of them chose to regard as confidential Time after time high officers who have been called as witnesses in cases have refused to produce documents, and notwithstanding the protests of counsel they have not been produced. Even despite the view of his lordship of the Kent Assizes that "it must be clearly understood that there is no rule which prevents any officer of whatever rank giving a court of justice sitting in the name of the King any or all the evidence the court legally requires," we do not expect to see the day when he will pluck up sufficient courage to commit, say, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff for contempt and confine him in a donjon deep for not producing an Army document if he doesn't think fit.

A MUTINOUS COLONEL.

YOU *CAN* CATCH HICKMAN.

It will be interesting to see how Colonel Seely, Minister of War, deals with Colonel Hickman, M.P. This gallant warrior is an unemployed officer on the active list, and therefore receiving half-pay. In addition, he is Hon. Colonel of a South Staffordshire Territorial regiment. In a speech to his constituents the other day, he said that in the coming Home Rule struggle the men of Ulster are not going to fight with dummy muskets, but with modern rifles and ammunition, and they are being taught how to shoot. "I know," he went on, "because I buy the rifles myself. I won't tell you where I get them from, but you can take it from me they are the best, and if the men will only hold them straight there won't be many Nationalists to stand up against them." Nobody expects the Government will undertake a prosecution for language of this kind, but it is obviously language which an officer in his Majesty's Army should not be permitted to use. There need be no fuss whatever in dealing with the hon. and gallant gentleman. Colonel Seely should have his name quietly removed from the half-pay list and from his hon. colonelcy.

AN INGENIOUS INCORPORATION.

EXTRAORDINARY REGISTRATION OF DEGREE FACTORY.

Within the last few months that illusively-styled concern, the North British Academy of Arts, of Claremont Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has tacked the word "Limited" on to its title, adding on its letter-paper, "Founded 1908—Incorporated 1913." Possibly Mr. W. J. Morgan, its late proprietor, came to the conclusion that it was better in his own interests that it should belong to an entity which had no body to be kicked by disgusted ex-"fellows" or "members"! It will be recalled that our main complaint against Mr. Morgan was that the status of his Academy was not made clear to the persons who were invited to join it, and were therefore prone to think that the right to use, in return for a subscription, the letters "N.B.A." after their names conferred a distinction which was more than worth the money, whilst, as to Mr. Morgan personally, he had carried the policy of non-disclosure so far as to describe himself as "Hon. Secretary" of his own business!

Nor can we now congratulate Mr. Morgan upon turning over a new leaf. The Academy is not "Limited" by means of registration at Somerset House under the Companies Acts nor is it incorporated by charter, royal or otherwise, as are most of the bodies which really exist for the encouragement of learning, art or science. The North British Academy of Arts obtained its limitation and its incorporation by means of registration under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act—of all things in the world! We venture to think that if, in this matter, Mr. Morgan were to adopt the usual course, and candidly make the full disclosure "Registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act," the Academy would not long keep its doors open. The measure of which Mr. Morgan took advantage was never intended to apply to such a business as that of selling degrees, which is, of course, the staple industry of the Academy. There is no statement regarding the capitalisation, while the agreement under which Mr. Morgan transferred the concern to the trustee for the new society, is not filed. It is, therefore, impossible to say what Morgan gets for it—lock, stock and barrel—but we have little doubt that he has looked after his own interests.

The poor geese who lay the golden eggs, in the shape of guineas for "fellowships" and "memberships," do not have much voice in the disposition of their money, for the "Society" to which the collection of their tribute has been handed over appears to consist of but the eight people who signed the rules—four residing in London, one each at Aston Manor, Southwold and Liscard, and one only—Mr. Morgan, himself—on the spot. These individuals, too appoint the Committee of Management A significant clause states that: "The Secretary shall hold and exercise every power of the Committee of Management during the intervals between the acts of the Committee." It thus appears pretty obvious that, in the future as in the past, Morgan—the only resident member of the Committee—will for all practical purposes continue to exercise alone all the artifices by which money is extracted from mugs by playing upon their vanity.

COINCIDENCE—OR PIRACY?

From JOHN BULL, November 26th:—

THE "ULSTER" STRUGGLE.

REDMOND and CARSON (both together): "It's MY Ulster, I tell ye! An', bedad, I mane to stick to it!"

From the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*, November 28th:—

DISPUTED PROPERTY.

BOTH (simultaneously): "My coat, I think, sir."

Manchester and Salford are both claiming prior rights to the possession of Prestwich.

Your Last Chance to Win £1,800 for Easy Football Forecasts. See page 911.

"Mezclese una cucharada"

No; that is not the name of a new Spanish dance.

The phrase is composed of the first three words of the special instructions which are printed on the Colman Mustard tins for Spain.

The Spaniard consumes such large quantities of mustard, that the producers of the world's standard mustard — Colman's — have to prepare special instructions in Spanish, to make sure that the mustard is properly served at the grandee's table.

You know mustard should be mixed with cold water and let stand ten minutes before serving. This develops the wonderful essential oil, with the result that—

"A mustard spoon in the hand is worth two 'tonics' in the future."

Colman's
D.S.F. Mustard

S.H.B.

FOR COUGHS. Owbridge's Lung Tonic FOR COLDS.

FOR
COUGHS.

Owbridge's
Lung Tonic

FOR
COLDS.

WILKINSON
SWORD STEEL
RAZORS

IT'S THE SWORD STEEL that gives these famous razors their velvet and lasting edge. Wilkinson Razors are made by expert workmen, and hardened, and tempered, by a special process; better than any "best" razor on the market. Buy a Wilkinson Safety or Ordinary, and your troubles are over, as Wilkinson's Razors retain their keen velvet edge.

Wilkinson "Pall Mall" Strong Beard Safety (new patent), 10/6. Easily shaves the toughest growth.

Of all Stores, Cutlers, Hairdressers, etc.

"It's the sword steel that does it."

Write for List.

Wilkinson Sword Co., Ltd., 53, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

LAW AND LOGIC.

WORRYING THE WEAK. PROTECTING THE POWERFUL.

Though we agree with what Col. Foster, the Chairman of the Preston (Lancs.) Magistrates, said in convicting and fining a man in that town for keeping open his little news-agent's shop for betting purposes—that the Bench had no option in the matter—we much more cordially agree with the solicitor for the defence, that the "smaller fry" in the betting game get a great deal more law than justice. "You have," he said, "the wealthy people who go into the ring at Tattersall's and bet in sovereigns with impunity. The man-about-town rings up commission agents and puts his money on any race he pleases, and nothing is done to him. The big bookies on the racecourse are even protected by special police, detailed for the purpose. But when you have poor men like the defendant, who enable the working man to put his sixpence or his shilling on a horse, the bench fine them heavily." What moral difference there is between betting in shillings or in sovereigns, in shop or street or racing enclosures and sporting clubs, and why they should be legally differentiated, we are unable to perceive. Even the man with a shilling wherewith to "back his fancy" may do so with a bookmaker on a racecourse; but if he ventures his shilling with a bookmaker at a street corner or in a shop, the bookmaker is liable to heavy penalties and he himself breaks the law

There are throughout the country many clubs frequented solely by racing men and used for purposes of betting only, but the moral conscience of the legislature has not as yet risen to making them "places" within the meaning of the Act. We have no excuse to make for street or shop bookmakers; they know the law, and it they deliberately elect to break it on the chance of not being found out, they must take the consequence when they are. The law, however, is partial and unfair; and it must be repugnant to many judges and magistrates known to have an occasional or frequent flutter on a horse, that they have to convict and heavily mulct other men tor acts which those with whom they themselves bet do with impunity in office, club, or racecourse enclosure.

Diogenes represents Solon as saying that laws are like cobwebs—if any small or weak thing falls into them it is caught and held fast while a bigger thing falls through and escapes. As in his day, so it is in ours.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR SEASONABLE CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor.

First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way.

Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time.

We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

Gifts of money should be sent to the Editorial Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre; presents in kind should be directed to the depot of the Fund, 149, Mare Street, London, N.E.

The following subscriptions are gratefully acknowledged:—Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, £50; Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, £25; Proprietors of JOHN BULL, £25; Editor of JOHN BULL, £10; Messrs. Lloyd, Richardson and Co., £5 5s.; Mr and Mrs. A. B, 2s.; Mrs. L,, 1s.; "Jennie," 2s. 6d.; J. J. P., 5s.; A. W., 2s. 6d.; W. H. H., 1s 3d.; J W. (Govan), 1s.; W. B. 2s.; J. R., 5s.; "Kildorrery," 1s.; "Bootle," 1s.; M. N., 2s.; "Every Little Helps," 2s. 6d.; "Rica," 5s.; M. E. P., 5s.; D. E. M., 2s. 6d.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCLXXVII.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

PATHETIC CASE FROM LINCOLN.

Misfortune seems to dog the steps of certain unlucky people. Here is a sad illustration. Living in Lincoln is a turner, his wife, and one son, nine years of age. Owing to his recently becoming subject to fits employers of labour shrink from giving him work on account of their liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The little family were, however, able to get along fairly well until they sustained a fearful blow in the loss of an elder son, aged 18, who was a conductor upon the electric trams. The lad was a general favourite amongst his colleagues, and the money that he earned went straight home to support the house. While at work he burst a blood vessel, with the result that he died on November 10th. The family are receiving from the parish help to the extent of 6s. a week which the poor mother supplements by going out to work earning another 3s. 6d. The neighbours have also done what they could, by organising a concert, thus raising £3. Perhaps a little sum could be got together, through our readers, so as to enable the man to start in some small business suitable to his infirmity. Who will help?

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCLXXI.—E., W., 1s.

CCLXXIV.—"Fonthill," 1s.; C. B. R., parcel.

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Result of Our 5th Football Contest. List of Winners on page 885.

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Spencer Leigh Hughes
Sir Henry Irving
Joseph Chamberlain
Max O'Rell
R. Waldo Emerson
Harold Cox
Woodrow Wilson
G. Bernard Shaw
Charles Dickens
John Bright
Chauncey Depew
Sir A. Conan Doyle
Sir Edward Grey
Earl Halsbury
Etc., etc.
Lord Fisher
Abraham Lincoln
Justin McCarthy
Viscount Milner
M. Poincaré
Whitelaw Reid
Theodore Roosevelt
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For this is the first opportunity that the British public has had of reading Balzac as he meant to be read, and without his work being subjected to a quite unnecessary and gratuitous expurgation.

The Napoleon of Literature.

For Balzac was to literature what Napoleon was to arms—a man of giant brain, who saw all life, all character, and all events as material to be turned into stories, and who did not believe that there were any events that could not be told with advantage—and so his novels make their appeal to all.

And all those who realise this will hasten to take advantage of the offer of his Best Novels in 14 volumes, specially selected by that famous Balzacian, Mr. Clement Shorter, editor of the *Sphere*

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LAW AND LOGIC.

WORRYING THE WEAK. PROTECTING THE POWERFUL.

Though we agree with what Col. Foster, the Chairman of the Preston (Lancs.) Magistrates, said in convicting and fining a man in that town for keeping open his little newsagent's shop for betting purposes—that the Bench had no option in the matter—we much more cordially agree with the solicitor for the defence, that the "smaller fry" in the betting game get a great deal more law than justice. "You have," he said, "the wealthy people who go into the ring at Tattersall's and bet in sovereigns with impunity. The man-about-town rings up commission agents and puts his money on any race he pleases, and nothing is done to him. The big bookies on the racecourse are even protected by special police, detailed for the purpose. But when you have poor men like the defendant, who enable the working man to put his sixpence or his shilling on a horse, the bench fine them heavily." What moral difference there is between betting in shillings or in sovereigns, in shop or street or racing enclosures and sporting clubs, and why they should be legally differentiated, we are unable to perceive. Even the man with a shilling wherewith to "back his fancy" may do so with a bookmaker on a racecourse; but if he ventures his shilling with a bookmaker at a street corner or in a shop, the bookmaker is liable to heavy penalties and he himself breaks the law

There are throughout the country many clubs frequented solely by racing men and used for purposes of betting only, but the moral conscience of the legislature has not as yet risen to making them "places" within the meaning of the Act. We have no excuse to make for street or shop bookmakers; they know the law, and if they deliberately elect to break it on the chance of not being found out, they must take the consequence when they are. The law, however, is partial and unfair; and it must be repugnant to many judges and magistrates known to have an occasional or frequent flutter on a horse, that they have to convict and heavily mulct other men for acts which those with whom they themselves bet do with impunity in office, club, or racecourse enclosure.

Diogenes represents Solon as saying that laws are like cobwebs—if any small or weak thing falls into them it is caught and held fast while a bigger thing falls through and escapes. As in his day, so it is in ours.

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR SEASONABLE CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor.

First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way.

Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time.

We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

Gifts of money should be sent to the Editorial Offices, 93 and 94, Long Acre; presents in kind should be directed to the depot of the Fund, 149, Mare Street, London, N.E.

The following subscriptions are gratefully acknowledged:—Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, £50; Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, £25; Proprietors of JOHN BULL, £25; Editor of JOHN BULL, £10; Messrs. Lloyd, Richardson and Co., £5 5s.; Mr and Mrs. A. B, 2s.; Mrs. L., 1s.; "Jennie," 2s. 6d.; J. J. P., 5s.; A. W., 2s. 6d.; W. H. H., 1s 3d.; J W. (Govan), 1s.; W. B. 2s.; J. R., 5s.; "Kildorrery," 1s.; "Bootle," 1s.; M. N., 2s.; "Every Little Helps," 2s. 6d.; "Rica," 5s.; M. E. P., 5s.; D. E. M., 2s. 6d.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCLXXVII.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

PATHETIC CASE FROM LINCOLN.

Misfortune seems to dog the steps of certain unlucky people. Here is a sad illustration. Living in Lincoln is a turner, his wife, and one son, nine years of age. Owing to his recently becoming subject to fits employers of labour shrink from giving him work on account of their liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The little family were, however, able to get along fairly well until they sustained a fearful blow in the loss of an elder son, aged 18, who was a conductor upon the electric trams. The lad was a general favourite amongst his colleagues, and the money that he earned went straight home to support the house. While at work he burst a blood vessel, with the result that he died on November 10th. The family are receiving from the parish help to the extent of 6s. a week which the poor mother supplements by going out to work earning another 3s. 6d. The neighbours have also done what they could, by organising a concert, thus raising £3. Perhaps a little sum could be got together, through our readers, so as to enable the man to start in some small business suitable to his infirmity. Who will help?

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

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Earl Halsbury
Etc., etc.
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BARBER: "Have you been here before, Sir?"
CUSTOMER: "Yes, once."
BARBER: "I don't seem to remember your face."
CUSTOMER: "Oh! it's healed up since then!"

POLITICAL PATTER.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

(*Sings*) There's a cottage in Carnarvon,
Where the wild Welsh rabbits play
And the luscious leeks lie leaking
All the live long day;
And some day I hope to hie me
To that cottage in the West,
When the mangels cease from mangling
And the wurzels are at rest.

Yes, you've no idea how I yearn for a quiet life sometimes. Don't you believe me? Well, it doesn't Marconi difference to me whether you do or not. But you may accept my solemn insurance—I mean assurance—that nothing would please me better than to sit under somebody's family tree eating rare and refreshing fruit all day long. But my wife won't let me. She's ambitious, you know, and when a woman's ambitious—well, there you are! Why, only the other day, feeling tired, I sat down on a little bit of undeveloped land adjacent to our demesne and messuage, playing the "Poet and Pheasant" on the welsh harp. I had just got to the tut-tutti part—*you* know, where the mangel movement commences,—when one said "George, don't sit there wasting your time. Can't you find a little Limewashing to do, or something? or wurzle happen." Ahem!—who threw that banana? Not that I mind—it missed. All contributions thankfully received. But reverting—ahem! nine to four on reverting—er—reverting to the subject of music—(*drum*)—Thank you—one of my crochets is the minim—um—keep your seats, please; the panel soon pass—the minimum wage for the agricultural labourer. I can never approach the question without a quaver in my voice and an inclination for a rest in the nearest bar. But I will try to be brave. I beg your pardon? Am I a flat or a sharp? You must be a natural to ask me such a question. Ha, ha! I think I scored that time. That's a stock exchange of mine (*trombone*).—Thank you, that'll do. Put the cover on, please. My point is this, Is it right, is it fair, is it just, that members of Parliament should be paid £400 a year for taking pleasure trips to the Colonies whilst the man who soils the till—I mean tills the soil—has to support a wife and family on twelve shillings a week? As Sir Edward Grey beautifully puts it in his "Energy in a Backyard,"

The wurzel sniffs the smell of parting day,
The pheasant pecks its way across the lea,
The ploughman homeward plods his beery way
And washes down his crust with bonus tea.

There's a picture for you! It brings a film to my eyes as I envision it, like the fat on a basin of mutton broth. And that reminds me. Let us return to our sheep. Who said Bah! My reply is Bow-wow! But let that pass, as the dog said when it swallowed a herring bone. I have more important things to talk to you about. There's the land. Some of our friends tell us that "God gave the land to the people." Very likely. I don't dispute it. Only I should like to see the title deeds. That's all. Nevertheless, as the boy remarked when invited to take an apple, I am going to tackle the Land question. I hope I shall rise to the occasion, as the dough said to the baking-tin. But it will be a hard fight, and hot work—too hot to be bothered with an Ulster. But I shall stick to it, cheered by the thought that

There's a cottage in Carnarvon,
Where the wild Welsh rabbits play
And the luscious leeks lie leaking
All the live long day;
And some day I hope to hie me
To that cottage in the West,
When the mangels cease from mangling,
And the wurzels are at rest.

One of the most lucrative of arts—short story writing—can easily be taught to all who possess imagination. Editors are always on the look out for new writers, and there is an assured income for those who can write saleable fiction. Miss Louise Heilgers, whose work is well known to our readers, has recently established a postal School of Journalism, by which, for a moderate fee, amateur authors can gain a thorough knowledge of the art of short story writing. Miss Heilgers, of 45, Kenilworth Court, Putney, will be pleased to supply all further particulars upon application. Those unfamiliar with Miss Heilgers' work should read her short story entitled "Red, White and Brown" in this year's *John and Mary*.

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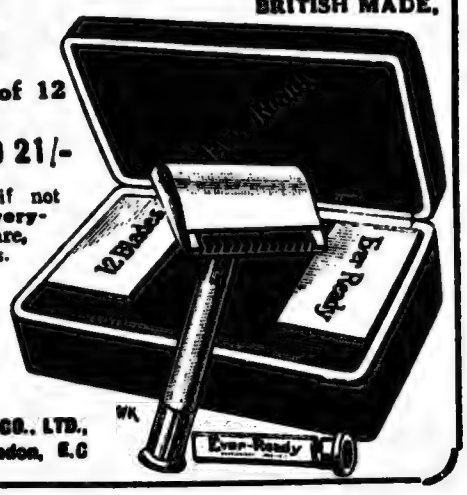

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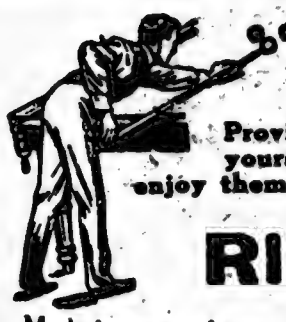

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, M.P., Home Office, Whitehall.

SLUGGISH SIR,—How much longer do you purpose delaying inquiry into the tragic circumstances of the Senghenydd Pit disaster? To the urgent representations of the Miners' Executive, you have returned vague and evasive replies, grossly unbefitting your high responsibility. You know full well that there are ample grounds for the strictest investigation which shall fix responsibility and apportion blame for a disaster which need never have occurred. Make no mistake, there will be no slackening in the public demand for truth. The whole piteous tale of official incompetence and bureaucratic apathy must at length incur daylight scrutiny. You *shall* face the music. Play the man!

JOHN BULL.

To Colonel T. Hickman, M.P., Wolverhampton.

GALLANT COLONEL,—With your political opinions I have no concern, neither do I question your right to give them free and forcible expression where and when you choose. I cannot forget, however, that you are an officer of the King's Army, thus owning an allegiance which takes rightful precedence of any political claim. You have hitherto sustained his Majesty's commission with dignity and honour, and the nation has a right to expect from you that restraint and self-possession which has for the most part creditably distinguished our soldier-politicians. Certain of your recent utterances, however, are matter for grave concern. Active and open sympathy with the levying of war within these dominions is incompatible with the tie which binds you to the loyal service of the King and his Ministers, wherever plot or peril may arise. Leave the Ulster problem to the politicians, my dear Colonel. It is not yours to reason why. Your ill-timed heroics may render grave disservice to the vital interests of the profession you adorn.

JOHN BULL.

To J. D. Gilbert, Esq., L.C.C., London.

MY DEAR SIR,—When you asked the Deputy-Chairman of the Highways Committee whether notices could not be displayed in the tramcars advising lady passengers that their hatpins should be protected, I see he disposed of you by the reply that "the Committee have not yet considered the matter." You need not lose hope on this account, however, for one of these days the Chairman of the Highways Committee, or it may even be the Chairman or the Clerk of the Council, will have one or both of his eyes perforated by a hatpin,—when the Committee will at once call a special meeting to pass the notice suggested. If women cannot keep on their hats without these eye-gouging stilettos, my dear sir, they should be compelled by law to tie them on with string or fasten them down with glue, though I admit that when I have taken the opinion of *Mary* on the point—however, mention it to your own wife and see what she says.

JOHN BULL.

To Eden Phillpotts, Esq., Playwright and Novelist.

SIR,—I am no prude, as you know, but you rather take my breath away when you declare that the novelist "has nothing to do with morals or ethics." Unhappily, there have been brilliant devotees of your art of whom this statement was eminently true, but I cannot think it embodies the general case. Perhaps I have misunderstood you—we will not blame the reporters—or have failed to grasp the end you have in view. If you mean that the novelist should be free to paint life as he sees it, I am with you all the time. I agree that he must "express life in terms of art." But, even so, there are surely limits of decency and restraint which no true artist will overstep. Art never need stink.

JOHN BULL.

To S. H. Whitbread, Esq., Chairman, Education Committee, Bedfordshire.

Note your epoch-making discovery that pheasants *do* peck mangel wurzels. You will doubtless communicate fact telegraphically to members of both Front Benches. Suggest you also give tip to Royal, British, Linnæan, and Ornithological Societies. Help yourself to two biscuits. Baronetcy will doubtless follow in due course.

BULL.

To L. A. Atherley-Jones, Esq., K.C., M.P., Recorder of Newcastle.

DEAR ATHERLEY-JONES,—It now seems certain that you are to be the new Judge of the City of London Court, and I hasten to tender my hearty congratulations. Since you have chosen judicial rather than political preferment, I rejoice that that courageous devotion to principle which has marked your Parliamentary career has proved no bar to your advancement in your profession. Your friends in the North will miss you sorely. There you will ever be remembered as a candid politician, an honest lawyer, and a humane judge. We in London have had some earnest of your mettle. I shall never forget your Homeric struggle with old Av—but there, let bygones be bygones. You will be both on the bench.

JOHN BULL.

To W. Pett Ridge, Esq., Novelist, London.

SIR,—I cordially agree with your dictum that "the State should take as much trouble in launching lads upon the sea of life as in launching a battleship at Portsmouth." Equally sound is your contention that there should be separate schemes of education "for Lionel Harrison, of Hampstead, and for George Gardiner, of Somers Town." As you know, I have consistently advocated such differentiation, and have pleaded for the inclusion of varied manual instruction in the curricula of primary schools. There are signs that the authorities are slowly awakening to the wisdom of our plan, but we shall never make any real progress as long as the priests and parsons are allowed to block the way. Some day the public will lose patience and knock their reverend heads together—then we will make things hum. By the way, have you joined the League?

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Board of Guardians, Lewes.

DEAR SIR,—It does not appear to me that the resolution passed by your Board by means of your casting vote displays much consideration or right-feeling for the poor. The Master had suggested that the aged inmates of the workhouse should have overcoats for wearing on their leave out; your casting vote decided that they should be labelled as paupers by being sent about in smock frocks—to be stared at like ancient exhibits in an agricultural museum. I sincerely hope that when the time comes Lewes ratepayers will resent this snobbish outrage on their poor by taking care that you and the other members who have voted for the resolution shall not be elected to the Board again.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, M.A., Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain.

SIR,—I note that the pastors of your denomination have caught the industrial spirit of the age and are "out for" a minimum wage. I sincerely hope they may get it, for many of them appear to be shockingly poor, and I would underpay no man, be he potman or pastor. Indeed, I look forward to the extension of what I may call Trade Union activity within your ranks. You may properly seek a lightening of your labours, and a scheme whereby the length of sermons should be compulsorily restricted would, I am convinced, be assured of a large measure of popular support. Why not begin with a time-limit of, say, twenty minutes—after which, in the words of Charles Wesley (who was, I believe, something of an authority), "no souls can be saved."

JOHN BULL.

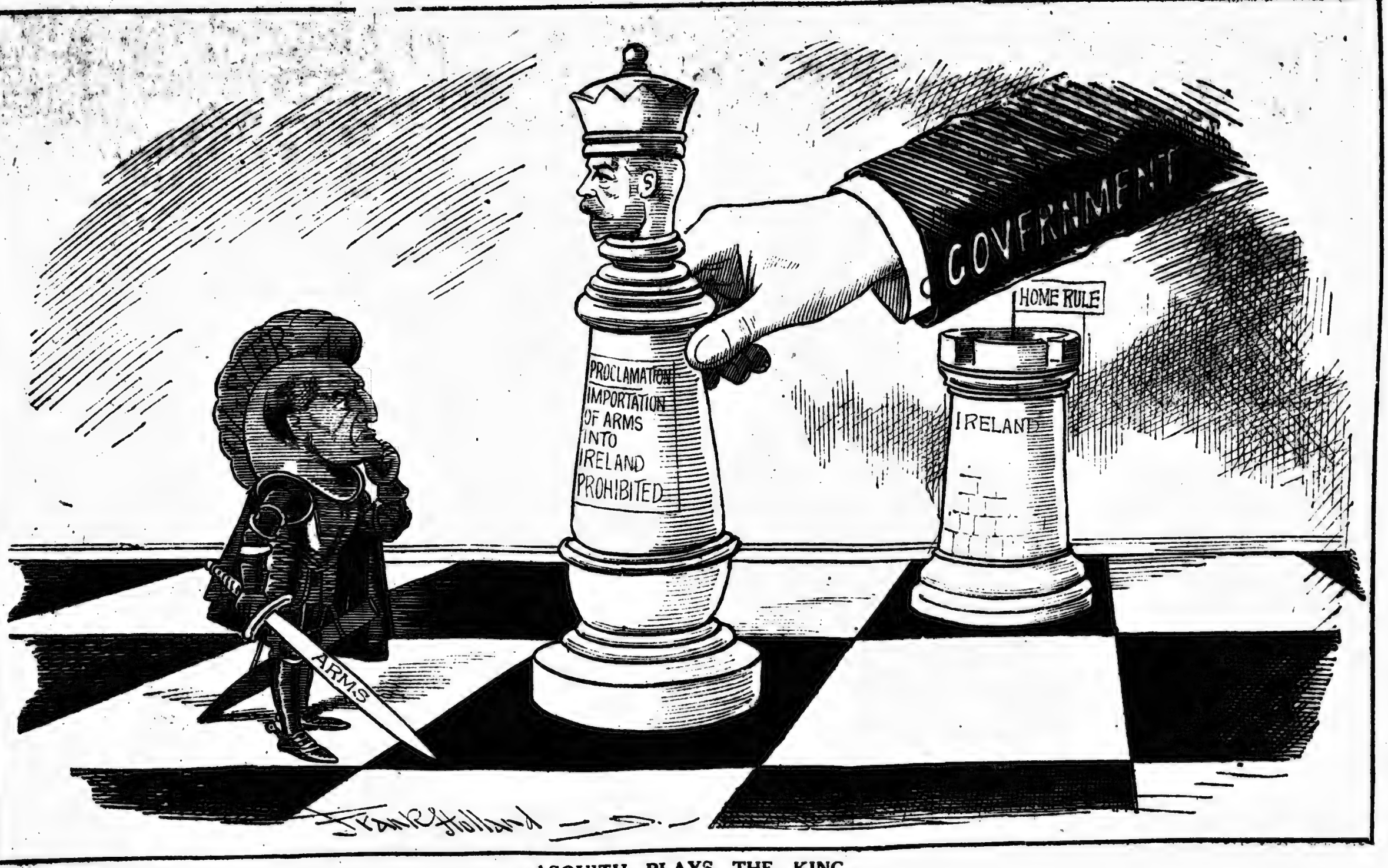
To Driver Henry Cush, Army Service Corps, Bordon Camp.

BRUTE,—As you are evidently neither a soldier nor a man, I can think of no better name by which to address you. Indeed, I am doubtful whether brute is not too honourable a term to be applied to a creature of your character. You may have a strong dislike for cats. Many people have. But that does not justify your fiendish cruelty in throwing one into the fire, and causing it to be terribly burned. You were fined 25s. at Whitehill (Hampshire) Police Court, but in my judgment that was not sufficient punishment for your revolting act. What you merit is the lash, and I assure you it would give me the utmost satisfaction to have the laying of it on your cowardly back. You are no more fit to have charge of animals than a camel is to thread needles, and the best service you could do the Army Service Corps would be to get out of it.

JOHN BULL.

Result of Our 5th Football Contest. List of Winners on page 885.

COUNTERED !



ASQUITH PLAYS THE KING.

THE WASTRELS.

AN EPISODE IN ONE ACT.

SCENE.—*A spacious but gloomy room in the Offices of the Board of Trade, on a drab afternoon in early December.*

(*An* ATTENDANT *enters.*)

ATT. (*Loudly*) : The President of the Board !

(*The President, bowing, passes to the head of the table.*)

PRES. : Order, gentlemen; please !

(*The whisperings die away. In leisurely fashion the company seat themselves around the table, assuming a somnolent air.*)

PRES. : Gentlemen, we are met this afternoon in circumstances of peculiar solemnity. We are to receive a report from one of our Inspectors concerning a—er—one of those—er—regrettable incidents which seem to be inseparable from modern high-speed locomotion. (*Chorus of "Hear," hear, and sighs.*) It is, if I may say so, gentlemen, a most unpleasant afternoon. We will be brief. (*Murmurs of excited approval.*) The Chief Permanent Secretary will read the minutes of the last session of the Consulate Committee Upon Railway Travel.

(*Hurried whisperings ensue, from which it ultimately appears that the C.P.S. has lost the record in question.*)

PRES. : I understand, gentlemen, that it is not desirable at the moment to revert to our earlier proceedings. I move that we take the minutes of our last meeting as read. (*He grasps a bulky document neatly bound in red tape.*) The report of the Aisgill mishap, copies of which have been circulated among you——

(*At this juncture an apoplectic gentleman at the other end of the table is seen to be struggling fiercely with his emotions. He presently rises.*)

APOP. GENT. : Mr. President, this d——d fog (*cries of "Order"*)—I beg pardon—this beastly accident is ancient history, gentlemen ; we know all about it. Are we to sit in this confounded atmosphere to listen to a long-winded rigmarole—(*renewed murmurs of "Order"*)—say rigmarole, gentlemen, that we've heard fifty times——

PRES. : You anticipate me, sir. I was about to move that we take the report as read. (*Chorus of ecstatic approbation*). Are you agreed, gentlemen ?

ALL. : We agree.

PRES. : I will not detain you with superfluous comment. The report is concise, luminous, and, above all, a moderate —(*some clapping of hands*)—commentary upon an incident which must be a matter for widespread lament.

APOP. GENT. : (*Scarcely audible*) : Stuff—ancient history !

PRES. (*Ignoring the interruption*) : Are there any questions, gentlemen ? A form perhaps, but it is proper that I should ask.

(*Nervous individual worries his moustache for some moments, then rises slowly and with extreme diffidence.*)

PRES. : Order, gentlemen.

NERV. IND. : Forgive me, gent—I mean, Mr. President, but—er—what, or rather when—in short, will anything be done ?

(*Deathlike silence, broken only by a single snore.*)

PRES. : *Done ?*

SEVERAL VOICES IN UNISON : *Done ?*

NERV. IND. : Forgive me, I scarcely make myself plain, but I—er—gather from the newspapers (*audible sneers*) that a precisely similar accident from a precisely similar cause occurred at this same spot two years before.

APOP. GENT. (*Suddenly waking*) : Bah !—Fiddlesticks !

PRES. : I am advised that the Committee has no official cognisance of this unique coincidence.

FACETIOUS MEMBER : Demd funny, though, all the same !

ALL : Ha, ha ! Ho, ho !

APOP. GENT. : Always happening. Beastly bore !

PRES. : I take it, gentlemen, it is your pleasure that the report be filed.

ALL. : Filed !

APOP. GENT. : Buried !

PRES. : Gentlemen, our labours are completed. A confidential minute of these proceedings was, I believe, prepared some days ago, and will in due course be forwarded to the directors of the railway companies. A slight formality remains. In my private room—a trifle of food and drink——

(*They go out except nervous indi[illegible] who lingers for a moment as though dazed by the s[illegible]mary closure.*)

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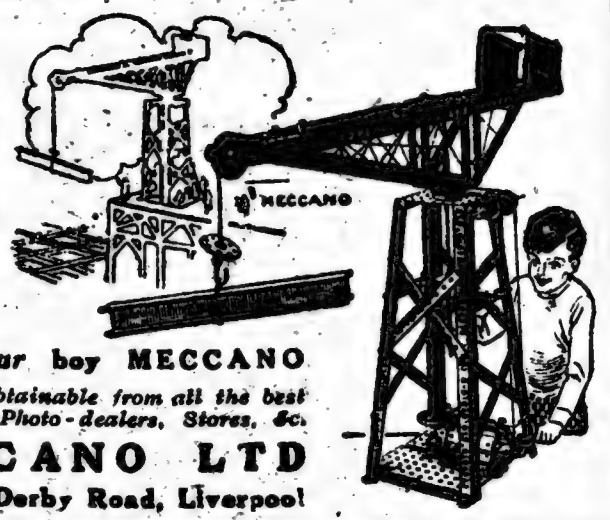

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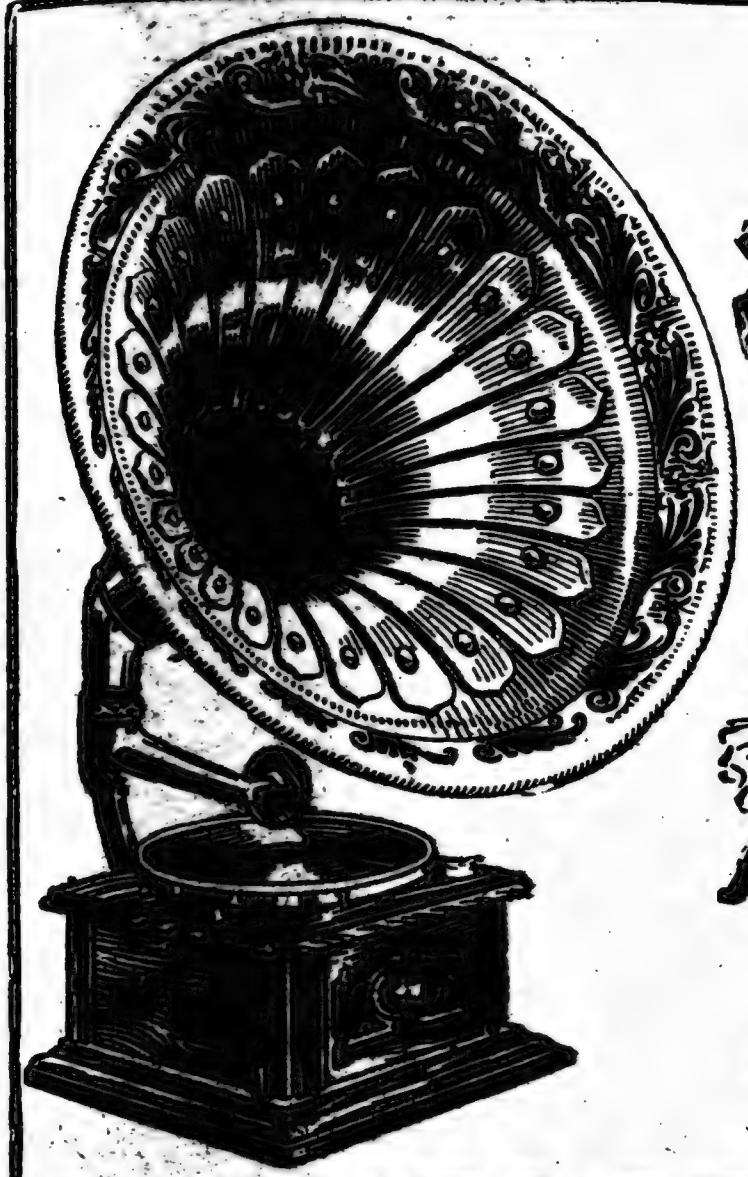

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THEM THAT WAIT.

AN HEROIC EPISODE OF COOL COURAGE.

The thick smoke hung above, and swirled about him in sullen clouds. Its acrid smell seemed to permeate his very being. Above the ceaseless, deafening rattle, the cries of victory, and mutterings and exclamations of defeat, rang from time to time a shouted Order, adding to the veritable pandemonium of sound.

During the last ten minutes he had not moved, dazed as he was by the din and faint from want of food. Ever and anon some darkly-clad female form would flit past, bent on her errand of mercy, bearing sustenance and restoratives to the strenuous contestants. But him they heeded not, though, heaven knew, he was as much, if not more, in need of attention as any of the more clamorous.

It seemed hours since he had first called feebly for something to moisten his parched tongue and restore a little energy to his weary frame; but his faint request had been ignored. Possibly, his weak appeal had fallen unheard amidst the benumbing rattle that seemed to flay his shattering nerves. Perhaps, because he was solitary and motionless, taking no part in the innumerable sporadic contests that were being waged around him, the seriousness of his unhappy case was not realised.

But, as minute after minute slipped by, the demands of nature, growing more insistent, began to master his constitutional timidity. The rattle, the smoke, and the flash of steel loosened their paralysing grip upon his senses. He began now to feel an increasing indignation, a rebellious bitterness, at the thought that his needs should be so long and, as it seemed to him, so studiously ignored. He could bear it no longer. With an effort, he rose to his feet.

"What about that scone and butter, miss?" he shouted.

And the domino-players looked up to see who the plucky one might be.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

A PLEA FOR THE "JOHN BULL" CHRISTMAS FUND.

Have you thought at all about the coming Christmas
Now that cold and wintry nights are drawing nigh?
Have you pondered o'er the turning out of cupboards
To make room for all the things you mean to buy?

Have you wondered what on earth to get the youngsters?
For you realise they have such heaps of toys;
Why, the place is simply littered with their dollies,
Clockwork engines, boats, and suchlike childish joys.

Well, now, if perchance your kiddies do not need them,
And you want to clear them out without a fuss,
Just enclose them in a parcel, packed securely,
And despatch them, carriage paid, addressed to us.

And the same remark applies to any clothing
Which you think you'll not be wanting any more;
And, however old, they'll doubtless come in useful;
All will help to fill the JOHN BULL Christmas store.

For we need them for the usual distribution
Which takes place 'way down in Slumland ev'ry year;
And each little gift of money, food, or clothing,
Helps to give our poorer folk some Christmas cheer.

Could you see the kiddies' eyes with joy aglisten,
When the longed-for JOHN BULL "messenger" arrives,
And could hear the mothers' heartfelt words—"Gawd bless yer,"
For this little ray of sunshine in their lives;

That's the time you'd have a choky sort of feeling,
And would find it hard to keep the tears away—
But you'd have that wond'rous joy there is in spreading
Right goodwill and peace on earth on Christmas Day.

Therefore, look around and see what you can find us
To relieve the lot of those so sore distressed;
And rejoice to know you've helped the poor and friendless;
Simply send the things—and we will do the rest.

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FLOR DE DINDIGUL CIGARS

There is nothing cheap about this Cigar, except the price. It has stood the test of time and is still the favourite. Light in colour, very mild in flavour, and of fine aroma. 13 Gold Medals awarded.
Price 3d. each (5 for 1/-); boxes of 25, 6/3; in boxes of 50, 12/3.
Flor de Dindigul Extra, extra choice, 4d. each; 15/- per box of 50 (as supplied to the House of Lords).
Flor de Dindigul Cigarettes (all tobacco leaf, no paper), 1d. each, 8/4 per box of 100. A delicious whiff when there is no time for a cigar.

Of all good dealers, or post free of BEWLAY, 49, STRAND, LONDON. Est. 133 years.

SEND nine penny stamps to Newball & Mason, Nottingham, and they will send you a bottle of

Mason's Ginger Wine Essence

which makes

One Gallon Ginger Wine

with the addition of lump sugar.

All who apply before January 15th will receive a Neat Money Box, which makes a Useful Gift for the Children.

"Oh, look! Here it is!"

—'A Marriage has been arranged.'—

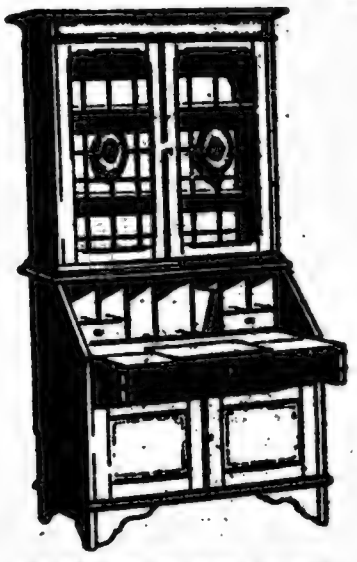
"Wasn't it lucky that we heard about the 'Midland' Ideal Terms. But for the 'Midland,' we might have had to wait another six months, instead of being able to get the very home we had set our hearts on—to get it straight away, without touching our capital or paying a penny for interest or deposit. And father was quite right in saying that

"Money buys more at the 'Midland.'"

Their vast business and the middlemen's profits they save by being actual manufacturers enable them to give the best value consistent with that supreme quality on which their reputation, as London's Leading Furnishers, has been based for more than half a century.

They charge nothing for credit—no deposit, no interest. All furniture purchased on the "Midland" Ideal Terms is **insured against fire free; and, should the purchaser die, it becomes the absolute property of the wife, without further payment.**

10% additional discount for cash.



Oak Bureau Bookcase, soundly constructed, with leaded light glass doors and fitted with fall front, 3 ft. wide, 7ft. high, 16 in. deep. £4 15s. 0d.

Well-made Bedroom Suite in Oak, handsomely designed. A typical example of "Midland" value. With two rush-seated Chairs. £6 6s. 0d.

Ideal Terms.

Worth.	Per Month.	Worth.	Per Month.	Worth.	Per Month.	Worth.	Per Month.
£10 ...	£0 6 0	£30 ...	£0 17 0	£50 ...	£1 8 0	£200 ...	£4 10 0
£20 ...	0 11 0	£40 ...	1 5 0	£100 ...	2 5 0	£500 ...	11 5 0

larger amounts pro rata

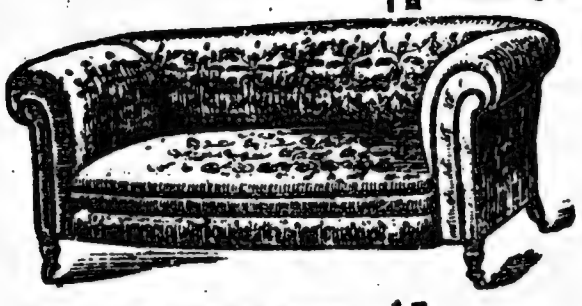
Railway Fares Paid.

Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered free.

Write for the "Midland" Book of Furniture.

This new and very handsome volume—the finest and most comprehensive guide to Furnishing ever published—contains over 1,000 photographs actually taken in our Furniture Salons. The book will be sent free on receipt of a postcard with your address.

Write for it to-day.



Large size Chesterfield, beautifully upholstered and covered in tapestry to customers' choice. With or without drop end.

£4 14s. 6d.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Contractors to H.M. Crown Agents for the Colonies,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station. 1 minute from British Museum Tube Station.

Hours—9 till 8. Sats—9 till 1.

Governing Director. GEORGE MICHAEL *(who has been associated with the business for 40 years).*

THE LATEST PROPOSAL.

UNOFFICIAL REPORTS OF NOVEL OFFERS OF MARRIAGE.

The eugenic idea is opening up fresh ground. Not love, not liking, not mutual physical attraction, but community of interests, promises to become the basis of marriage in the future. We judge this from the news that has reached us from America and elsewhere. The United States, foremost in graft, in patent religions, quack remedies, and "flat traps," has also taken the lead in the newest form of marriage proposals Dr. Tanner, the celebrated fasting man, is the pioneer. He is stated to have solicited Mrs. Pankhurst's hand in marriage. It is, on the face of it, an astounding thing that any man should wish to marry Mrs. Pankhurst. But Dr. Tanner's proposal becomes more credible when we learn that the doctor considers "that the accomplishments in the way of abstention from food constitute a link between himself and the suffragette leader." For some obscure reason Mrs. Pankhurst considers herself insulted by the offer. We are surprised. It is not at all like the suffragettes to refuse a Tanner. Those with whom we have come in contact have never exhibited any reluctance in accepting a Bob, a Brown, or even a half James. Why, then, should Mrs. Pankhurst turn up her nose at a Tanner? We think she is unwise. It may be her last chance. And, who knows?—the outcome of the union might be sixpen'orth of coppers, or a couple of threepenny pieces at the least. Such a valuable addition to the cause is not to be despised. We respectfully urge Mrs. Pankhurst to reconsider her decision. In the words of Shakespeare, we venture to say to her, "Get thee to a Tannery, go; and that quickly." The vote is all very well; but, after all, there is nothing like leather.

ANNIE'S OPPORTUNITY.

A rumour is afloat to the effect that Miss Annie Kenny has also been the recipient of an interesting offer The plucky man is a Mr. Bill Sikes, of Bow, E., a gentleman well-known in sporting circles, and a clever exponent of the kidney punch and the half-arm hook, as well as the elbow jab. Mr Sikes, it appears, has been an admiring spectator of several of Miss Kenny's most famous fights, and, whilst feeling no love for the lady—using the word in the accepted sense—yet feels himself drawn to her as to a kindred spirit. It is, indeed, a question of—community of interests, again. He believes they might work up a pretty little sparring turn that would go down well at Wonderland, and even win applause at some of the lesser music-halls He considers that marriage would keep them both in form, inasmuch as in consequence of their relationship, they would have plenty of sparring practice. The terms of Miss Kenny's reply have not yet been communicated to the press.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production **within seven days of publication** (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following correct claims have been received:—

Mr. J. WALLIS, 147, Bromsgrove St., Birmingham. November 8. No. 756,047.

Mr. S. BURGESS, 64, Newcome Rd., Fratton, Portsmouth. November 15. No. 865,851

Mr. H. ROBINSON, 21, George St., St. Clements, Oxford. November 15. No. 372,364.

Mr. J. BUTLER, 5, Beechwood Grove, Burley, Leeds. November 22nd. No. 306,047.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of December 6th:—

003739	208167	333688	606413	824673
022492	226000	421091	621559	831820
037936	242168	432804	639884	858071
059991	247120	456842	646937	878945
075646	257792	488160	666359	913416
098052	270771	516400	716895	926782
150112	275143	553538	746276	963400
173593	306507	576783	759490	988763
179637	330135	579743	770824	A001849
187214	361251	591383	815312	A0016412

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on December 17th).

Choose Your Career

Yes; CHOOSE your career; MAKE your career; that is the ONLY way to get on. It's no use folding your hands and waiting. Nothing comes in the world of work to him who waits, except a tombstone. The men who make their way, who succeed, who win and hold good positions, are the men who have a definite object and who determinedly push and fight to get there.

What is your aim? Read this list of

Positions for which the I.C.S. Qualify Students

Advertisement Writer	Gas-Power Engineer
Architect	Illustrator
Artificer	Linguist
Boilermaker	Marine Engineer
Bookcover Designer	Mechanical Engineer
Book-keeper	Mine Foreman
Bridge Engineer	Mine Manager
Builder	Mine Surface Foreman
Carpet Designer	Mine Surveyor
Chauffeur	Motor Engineer
Chemist	Newspaper Illustrator
Civil Engineer	Patternmaker
Clerk	Poultry Farmer
Clerk of Works	Quantity Surveyor
Colliery Examiner	Salesman
Concrete Engineer	Sheet-Metal Worker
Cotton Worker	Shorthand-Typist
Designer	Show-Card Writer
Draughtsman	Steam Engineer
Dynamo Attendant	Steam Fitter
Electrical Engineer	Surveyor
Engineer-in-Charge	Telephone Engineer
Farmer	Templater
Fireman	Toolmaker
Foreign Correspondent	Window Dresser
Foundryman	Woollen Worker

If you write to us we will send you full particulars of the training the International Correspondence Schools will give you to qualify you for any of the above positions. Please name which position you are in or want to be in, even if it is not given above. These Schools give a thorough, practical and up-to-date training; not a mere theoretical training, but a practical training by practical men for practical men. Address—using our full address so as to avoid delay—

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS, LTD.

92e, INTERNATIONAL BUILDINGS, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.

Can you write good Business Letters?

An Important Article for every man engaged in business. A Situation at £200 a year with A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

HAVE you ever thought what an extremely valuable gift it is to be able to write really good business letters? Anyone can write a letter—of a sort. But the real correspondent who can be depended on to write a letter that will bring in orders, or that will carry its point if produced as evidence in a court of law, is a treasure rarely to be met with.

Just think what a difference it would make to you in your business if you could write really successful letters? Hundreds of huge businesses have been built up entirely through the clever use of the business bringing power of the letter. Are you, in your own way, doing the same thing by writing circular letters that bring you new customers every day?

Perhaps you could do so but cannot spare the time. Perhaps, however, you have not the knack of writing such letters. In either case, there is now an easy way out of your difficulty.

A new edition of the world-famous "Business Encyclopædia" has just been brought out containing over

1,000 Model Letters and Agreements

which you can adapt or use to suit every occasion that can possibly arise in your business. Just consider, apart from all the many other uses of the "Business Encyclopædia," how extremely valuable this section alone would be to you.

Letters that Bring you More Business.

Take, for instance, the many varieties of letters sent to customers and would-be customers—letters answering complaints or collecting accounts—do you ever have to write these?

And how about "form" or circular letters that seek to sell goods? Even a letter-writer of quite ordinary calibre will charge anything from a guinea upwards for writing such letters, yet here you have letters specially written by expert authorities on every conceivable subject, including letters announcing the start of a new business or the new management of an old one; the inauguration of any new department or the acquisition of any new agency; letters to new residents in a district or to visitors to hotels; letters announcing special delivery arrangements.

Recovering Lost Customers.

Then there is a most important section giving all sorts of letters to recover lost customers—most valuable letters these. Other valuable letters are letters offering and sending out catalogues and circulars of all sorts; letters announcing new season's stocks; letters about sales of all kinds; in fact, circular letters of every conceivable kind and nature.

Letters Saving Legal Costs.

Another section that will save you many pounds every year is the large portion devoted to legal and semi-legal letters and agreements of all sorts. The subjects included are so wide as to cover every phase of business. These are just a few of them: Insurance, Relations of Landlord and Tenant, Licences, Notifications and Applications to Local Authorities, Engaging Employees and Dismissing them, Mortgages, the National Insurance Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act, nominating Legal Representatives, Options, Patents, Partnerships, Rates, References, Warranties, Stock Exchange Transactions, Trustees

A Book on Business Free.

On this page you will find a special coupon for readers of JOHN BULL, which entitles you to a free copy of an interesting book on business, that may set you on the right road to business success, just as it has set many others of your fellow readers. In itself, it is of considerable value to any business man, for it contains actual facsimile specimens, showing how to draw up important legal documents, such as wills, agreements, leases, indentures, etc., etc.

But—and this is the most vital point for you—it tells you also *all* about this great "Business Encyclopædia," probably the most valuable work that any business man could have. It is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work.

How it concerns you.

Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in bookkeeping the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose and card index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Surely you realise the help this knowledge would mean.

Situation at £200 a year.

Moreover, if you own the "Business Encyclopædia," you can enter for the position offered by Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd., the famous Holborn outfitters, who require a man or woman for a responsible position in their firm, and who know that the person who owns and studies the "Business Encyclopædia" is the best possible man or woman for the post. The position carries a commencing salary of £200 a year, and will be filled by competitive examination. Full particulars will be sent free on receipt of the form below. There is no entrance fee, and a number of other prizes are offered from £100 in cash downwards

TWO OPINIONS.

J. S. FRY & SONS, LTD., write:—

"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is the work *par excellence* for every business man to possess."

Mr. G. W. READ, Clerk, Fortnam Road, London, N.:—

"I never made a more gratifying purchase. I regard the 'Business Encyclopædia' as a most profitable investment, and I very much regret that such a work did not come my way earlier in life."

A FREE BOOK

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book on Business Success, but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and how any reader may obtain it, complete in nine handsome volumes, for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only.

To the CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." Also particulars of the situation at £200 a year with Messrs. A. W. Gamage, Ltd.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of INQUIRIES *received, consequent upon the continual growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 916.
For Sporting Replies, see page 920.

F. M. (London), W. H. W. (Leeds), C. S. (Leeds), and OTHERS. You will find a reference elsewhere to the subject of our Third Football Competition.

"LOUTH VICAR."—You do not sign your letter. May that be the explanation of your not having received the acknowledgment for which you ask?

H. P. (Hornsey).—Thanks for offering to testify to the *bona fides* of the award you recently received of a "Bullets" third prize. We frequently get such offers, which, though well meant, we prefer not to accept, on the principle *qui s'excuse s'accuse.*

G. W. D. (Leith) sends us half-a-dozen unused blank cheques upon the defunct Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, for which he thinks some of our readers may care to make a bid, the proceeds to be handed over to our Christmas Charity Fund. This is about the most Scottish idea we have yet struck!

W. G. (Darlington).—We are glad that *you*, at any rate, understand us.

R. S. K. (Bedford Park).—Your "Rapid Water-Force Washer" for motor cars appears to be an extremely ingenious and much-needed invention.

H. S. W. (South Hackney).—No, Ben Tillett was never in the Army, but a nephew of his, bearing the same name, was. Ben, however, *was* in the Navy.

P. W. (Bath) asks us why it is that our Christmas numbers, which he forwards to his son in Madras, are invariably abstracted in the course of post. We are afraid it is because the postal officials abroad cannot resist the temptation.

C. W. M. (Bloomfield).—We appreciate your patriotic spirit, but, believe us, the days of civil war—at any rate, in the United Kingdom—are over. Everything will come all right in the end.

B. R. (Huddersfield).—You both win. JOHN BULL is published in London on Wednesday, and in the provinces on Thursday.

A. S. W. (Bradford).—You are lacking in the saving grace of humour.

B. W. (Bolton).—If, after being warned by the police, your neighbour still allows his fowls to stray into your house, we would advise you to include poultry in your daily menu for a few weeks, to see what effect that has.

"BIRMINGHAM READER."—The name and address of the Local Secretary of the John Bull League in Birmingham is Mr. N. Owen, 158, Fentham Road, Birchfields. The annual subscription is one shilling, which should be paid to him.

CANON BOND (Vicar of Pevensey) desires us to state the fact that he has not communicated with us in any way respecting the now famous local bonfire on November 5th. We have pleasure in complying with the request.

R. T. (Consett).—It is interesting to know that as far back as twenty-seven years ago you were writing in your journalistic capacity on the folly of squandering money on foreign missions when so much more good could be done with it at home.

A. S. (Devonport).—Judging from what you tell us, the rules of St. Michael's Home, Somerset—which, we gather, is a Church of England Home for Consumptives—are pretty drastic. Is it a fact that auricular confession to a priest once a month is insisted upon? If so, we would be glad to know what confession has to do with consumption—or with the Church of England, for that matter.

W. R. (Rochdale).—The Salvation Army sweating which we have frequently referred to occurs at many of their labour depots—Hadleigh Colony, in Essex, for example, and in their waste-paper sorting department.

A. J. C. (Thornton Heath).—We have already exposed the fraudulent character of the mirror silvering business advertised by a ramp called Redmond, of Boston, U.S.A.

"UDONTNOMI."—We will keep our eye on the Colombia Gold Co.

"RETRAB" (Plymouth).—We are glad to hear that the Rev. Reginald Newcombe, Curate at St. Gabriel's, Plymouth, is one of the right sort, and "thinks that JOHN BULL is one of the few periodicals from which common sense can be obtained." His flock should count themselves fortunate.

G. P. (Dartford).—We are second to none in our admiration for Marconi (although he is not the *inventor* or discoverer of wireless telegraphy), but he is not a great man in the sense we meant when we said "the twentieth century has yet to produce a great man."

"THE BIG HILL" (Salop) wants to know "the conditions in America for getting a divorce." The conditions vary in the different States, but you may take it generally that they are a good deal easier than in Great Britain, where the idea appears to be to make escape from married misery as difficult as possible—especially for the middle classes and the poor.

F. W. (Gravesend).—We have frequently exploded the fallacy that members of the John Bull League receive any special consideration in connection with our competitions. As a matter of fact, very few of the principal prizes have, so far, gone to Leagueites.

C. E. H. (Lagos) asks us to inform him "whether married couples are ever doubled up—*i.e.*, man and wife with man and wife in one cabin together, in any class on board western ocean boats of the well-known lines." We hope not, in case of mistakes in the dark.

W. L. (Ipswich) inquires whether there are any Christian Endeavour Societies in Ireland, and if they teach their converts to love one another. Judging from the religious animosity that prevails in the Emerald Isle, we should say there must be.

W. H. B. (Southend-on-Sea).—We think it injudicious to pay fees in advance to any employment agency.

G. B. G. (Birkenhead).—The statistician to whom you direct our attention is merely a humble disciple of Lewis the leg-puller.

W. E. C. (Hanwell).—It is a very old tale, that of the child waking at one o'clock in the morning and asking her mother to tell her a fairy tale, and being told to "wait till father comes home; he'll tell one to us both." But as you write from Hanwell we'll forgive you.

"FAIRPLAY."—We do not usually notice anonymous communications, but make an exception in your case, so that we may express our surprise that a man who has the courage to champion the *Daily News* has not the pluck to give his name and address. And yet, after all, *is* it so surprising?

"PERPLEXED" (Crewe).—Railway companies are empowered by a recent Act of Parliament to increase their rates for goods as some compensation for raising the pay of their staff. As a fruit merchant, you ought to have known this.

W. H. (Birmingham).—Did you get your money back from Coopers Ltd., of 761, Old Kent Road, or did you sue them as you threatened?

F. C. B. (Wembley).—See reply to W. H. (B'ham.) above. It would be a case for the County Court, we should say.

"SUSPICIOUS" (Liverpool).—We would not have anything to do with the quack cure for red noses supplied by H. C. Temple, of 39, Maddox Street, London, W., if we were you. Bear your affliction like a man. We are told that the righteous shall shine forth. Seek not to hide your light under anything less simple than French chalk.

"MARY E. M." (Chesterfield).—Bachelors are not yet taxed in France. As to whether they should be taxed in England, we think such an impost should be levied only on those who come under the category of "gay dogs"—and then it should be called a licence.

Result of Our 5th Football Contest. List of Winners on page 885.

MRS. E. W. (Stoke-on-Trent).—Yes, it is possible for us to give you the private address of Mr. S. Joel, but we never do things like that.

C. S. S. (N. Kensington).—The Competition "expert" you refer to should be ignored.

H. M. (Small Heath) is anxious to know what is the matter with the National Key Insurance Co., Ltd., of 62, King William Street, E.C. We are getting a little curious ourselves.

"CONSTANT READER" (Leytonstone) asks "what was the last year that the Fairlop Boat came through the Mile End Road?" He has fair lopped us this time!

T. N. (Streatham, S.W.).—If you sign the rules of a house of business you must abide by them, so long as they are within the law. The rule which you mention respecting deduction of wages for holidays may seem harsh, but it is legal and may be enforced.

"UNCONVENTIONAL" (Cardiff) tells of "a plump Adonis of forty" who, looking over a furnished house, asked the pretty maid whether she was to be let with the establishment, and received the reply: "No, sir, I'm to be let alone." On agreement, of course. Good old "Girl from Kay's"!

M. C. O. (Walthamstow).—We regret that it is not in our power to do anything for your afflicted son.

A. C. (Singapore).—You ask, "Is a suicide entitled to Christian burial by a parson of the Church of England in consecrated ground, or is there one law for the rich and one for the poor?" What has the last part of your question to do with the first?

R. W. B. (Barnes, S.W.).—The Imperial Food and Work League is another of the impracticable schemes of Mr. D. Tallerman, who is prolific in such things. We advise you to have nothing whatever to do with it.

"DISGUSTED" (Ongar).—We should have thought that as the call office is installed in your competitor's shop, thus enabling him to overhear what business you transact, your obvious move would be to have a 'phone of your own. Indeed, having signed a contract with the Post Office, we don't see how you can get out of it without a forfeit.

R. F. E. (Toronto).—Thanks for your kind intentions, but there is no sign of a newspaper cutting in your envelope. Think it has been burgled?

"ACT VICTIM" (Pimlico, S.W.).—We are not aware that the thicker cod liver oil is the better. What you call "poor, thin stuff" may be the more refined and more easily assimilated. Personally, we like our cod liver oil so thin that you can't see it.

D. S. (Reigate).—When a man is convicted on three charges and sentenced to six months on each, *to run concurrently*, it means six months' imprisonment in all, not eighteen. So your pal will be out sooner than you expected.

E. W. (Walton).—We are repeatedly warning people not to do postal shopping with such firms as the British Clothing Club, of 74, Oldham Street, Manchester. By this time we hope they have answered your letters and sent you the "fewer and better articles" for the guinea you paid to them.

C. J. (Sierry Hills, Sydney).—It appears to be beyond question that the manners of the average Australian stand in need of improvement. You have found out that it is quite true he does not welcome emigrants, but on the contrary "guys" them at work and in the public streets at every opportunity; "the worst part of it is to see the numbers of women and children walking about in misery, and the average Australian dubbig them as they pass along."

W. A. R. (Edinburgh).—The sentiment of your poetic toast to ourselves is so complimentary that we will refrain from trouncing you for the quality of your verses. Instead, we hereby give you a gentle push, and say "Please don't do it again."

"SAILOR'S MOTHER" (Carlisle).—The only thing is to buy your son out of the Navy. Unless he is as hard as nails he is no good for the stoke-hole nor the stoke-hole for him.

F. L. (Manchester).—Hereby is it noted that you are looking forward to the day when the German fleet will be extirpated. The date will be about a month after the first Business Government comes in.

"RACER" (Moss Side).—Can a young business lady become a bookmaker's clerk? The answer is that she can if she can, but as to where she should apply for a post we know not. Try "Duggie" Stuart.

RUTH C. (Jarrow-on-Tyne) sends us some verses commencing:—

I love my JOHN BULL Weekly,
'Tis precious unto me;
The various days that I may have,
I can't without it be

and threatens to send us some more. If she does we shall call her Ruthless.

"A SOLDIER'S WIFE" (Hants) declares that "the majority of soldiers will drink anything that has any resemblance to, or is called by the name of, Beer." Let's hope they won't have to drink lager beer some day—unless abroad.

"BROGDEN" (Ontario).—We hope to devise a competition for overseas readers before long. We shall then see how Canadian wits compare with the home-grown variety.

L. B. (Nottingham).—We think we *have* given Margate's auction pest, the scamp Goldberg, as well as the police who so carefully protected him from the indignation of his dupes, a pretty good "show up." If we hear of many more Margate "mugs" being diddled by him next season we shall be surprised.

"TRAVELLER" (Cumberland).—If, as you suggest, communication cords do not act if the brake is on, it would doubtless explain several regrettable incidents that have occurred this year. A very good plan would be for the cord to be attached to the driver's ear. One good pull would guarantee the stopping of the train in no time, and heated inquiries as to the reason.

R. N. (Barcelona).—Thanks for life history of Mr. Bonar Law, but we are not so interested in his past as in his future—politically, of course.

W. McG. (Natal).—The Model Combination Camera (Manager, L. Lascelles) turns out small photos, which are a slight improvement on the old-fashioned seaside pictures on tin, which you may remember.

W. S. C. (Toronto).—Enclosing a morsel of newspaper afflicted with a yellow spot, you inform us that "as an Englishman in Canada this sort of thing gets your goat" and as there is nothing startling on the morsel except yellow spot, it has also got ours. "What do you think of it?" you ask. Nothing.

R. B. (Barry Dock).—The "best way to put a book on the market" is, first to get a printer to print it, then get the Censor to censor it, and its success is assured.

J. E. B. (India).—Don't waste an anna on the National Institute of Sciences, of 260-2, Westminster Bridge Road. They are low caste Yankee jay hunters.

J. R. M. (Longsight).—Do we think you will ever be a poet? We don't.

M. H. (Tindi, Dedza P.O., Nyassaland).—We regret to be unable to give you the address you ask for.

F. E. C. (Buckland).—They are all in the same galley.

C. W. (Eastwood).—In the case of an intestacy, with no relatives to benefit, the estate goes to the Crown.

C. B. (Winnipeg).—You answer your own question. You are unfortunately barred from entering our competitions because you cannot get your letter to London in time. *We* don't bar you. It is the distance does it. But read our reply to "Brogden" (Ontario).

J. H. T. (Blarney, Co. Cork).—None iv yer blarney!

"DISSATISFIED" (Stoke Newington, N.).—We think you were very ill-advised in not accepting the 3s. 6d. offered you by the Laurence E. Palmer Co., Ltd., of Holborn Hall, W.C. Remember you had tried their instruments, on which you paid a deposit of 7s. 6d., for six months, to see if they would mitigate your deafness. Surely, a test of that duration is worth 4s. Fair play is a jewel.

E. C. (Basinghall Street).—Are you a humorist? The congregation of the Rev. Herbert Williams, Vicar of St. John's Church, Horsleydown, S.E., may call him "Father," and still he may be a bachelor. All High-Church priests prefer being styled Father, though, in general, they are unmarried.

E. H. D. (St. Albans) provides us with the enthralling news that he is about to purchase the Harmsworth Business Library. We hope he will read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it. Then perhaps he will let us know the result.

J. R. S. (West Kensington).—Yes, but it is probable that, being a Scotsman, Mr. P. J. Philip, of Staple Inn, cannot distinguish between a hoax and a joax.

"EXPERIENCE" (Montreal).—We don't know who is Dr. Maxwell Lightstone, who writes in your *Daily Herald*, but having read his statement that "The English Army and Navy is (*sic*) recruited from the very lowest of English stock," we earnestly advise him to seek the advice of a brother practitioner. As a matter of fact, a large proportion of the "very lowest of English stock" goes out to Canada.

G. C. (Mitcham).—Hop-pickers have to put up with rough-and-ready accommodation because theirs is casual and temporary labour. Still, the conditions you describe as obtaining at Paddock Wood are about the limit, and should have been seen to by the local sanitary authorities.

H. B. McI. (Greenock).—Living in Scotland, you ought to know more about Glasgow schools than we do. Obviously it is impossible to teach telegraphy and telephony by correspondence.

A. B. (Headingly).—We cannot explain why the firm to which you refer have not forwarded the photos you paid for, unless you give us an idea of what you look like. Your counterfeit presentment may have paralysed them. Stir them up with a shilling summons.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

"Bullets" Cash Prizes Increased This Week. See page 918.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—

Shouldn't Consols be named "Can't-sells" now?
Do they call it the "Holler-away" Empire now?
Are the oil-producers trying to "kill the goose"?
Isn't *John and Mary* "the limit"—for twopence?
Won't it come to "forcible feeding" for the Territorials?
Will a strike be the Postmaster-General's Christmas "Box"?
Didn't the police "get ahead" of the suffragettes at Plymouth?
Isn't Lloyd George simply "ground-baiting" to catch votes?
Doesn't Alsace mean trouble "between" France and Germany?
Won't President Wilson have peace in Mexico, even if he has to fight for it?
Why hasn't Keir Hardie a word to say for his Indian "friends" in South Africa?
If modern dress will do it, doesn't it take "very little" to shock the Bishop of Carlisle?

* * *

EXAMINATION PAPERS :—

When a man sees double, is it a sign that he can sing treble?
Is it true that influenza microbes tickle the nose with their feet, or is this a-tishoo of lies?
When a man plays the fool, would anyone willingly take his part?
When the tongue is coated, is it possible to speak the naked truth?
If a cold attacks your nose, state the number of blows necessary to knock it off.
When a man loses his head, is it possible for him to talk under his hat?
If a man jumps at conclusions, would he be likely to hop it at introductions?

* * *

The police, we read, have taken up the Tango dance. Time they did.

* * *

"Election in a Belfry," reads a headline. We hope nobody "pulled the ropes."

* * *

Sentry won a race at Lingfield. Of course it would not let the other horses pass.

* * *

Twenty-five clergymen officiated at a service at Portsea. We hope they didn't all preach.

* * *

"Ideas of your own are like babies," says a writer. Yes, it is difficult to get them adopted.

* * *

The Vicar of Great Clacton is preaching in blank verse. Good; most sermons are far too prosy.

* * *

Switzerland is to have policewomen to look after the girls. Aren't the men doing it properly?

* * *

Fifteen eggs were recently found on a prisoner when he was searched. Information laid against him.

* * *

A Scots couple have been wedded at Montreal after an engagement lasting forty years. A cautious race.

* * *

A narcotic which will send armies to sleep is the latest warlike invention. A sort of soothing powder, apparently.

* * *

Dr. Cook, of Arctic "fame," is to lecture at the Albert Hall. We hope he will bring his Polar clothing with him.

* * *

If Somerset House becomes the London University it will be a change indeed; no one ever knows anything there now.

* * *

In naval practice, we are told, a shot that hits the target is a "miss." And a shot that doesn't hit the target is not amiss.

* * *

"Matrimony is an important step," says a contemporary. Yes, many a man comes to grief through taking it too hastily.

* * *

"The whole of London is now practically fed on Dutch pork," says Mr. Ernest Marsh. And it may even be cooked in a Dutch oven.

* * *

According to a lecturer, the human voice has its own distinctive colour. The newsboy's, for instance, is a decided "yeller."

* * *

Another rise in the price of petrol is threatened. Like the public, the motorist has to pay "through the nose" for the smelly stuff.

"The Siesta" was recently sold at Christie's. It is usual to get one on the nod.

* * *

Girl 'bus conductors are to be instituted in New York. *Won't* they be "run after"!

* * *

A winner at Newbury the other day was called Mind he Paint. It "came off."

* * *

More money for the Territorials. Evidently the Sovereign is not sufficient inducement.

* * *

At a Paris theatre a lady with vivid green hair has appeared. Perhaps she is a grass widow.

* * *

"Radium as an investment," says a heading. But wouldn't it burn a hole in the pocket?

* * *

"The day of formal proposals is over," says a new book. Yes, it is catch-as-catch-can now.

* * *

An Iowa man who weighs 9st. has married a girl weighing 17st. We hope he can support her.

* * *

Hams are to be dearer for Christmas, but we understand there will be as much "gammon" as usual.

* * *

The new play at the Strand Theatre is named "Mr. Wu." And now folk are asking "Who's Wu"?

* * *

Satan was the name given by a witness in an illicit whisky distillery case. Evidently an evil spirit.

* * *

Sir Wm. Wiseman has been adopted as Unionist candidate for Nuneaton. The House can do with one.

* * *

An "Insect Exchange" has been opened in Berlin. We hope the members won't "fleas" one another.

* * *

"The Measure of our Thoughts," is the title of a new book. We trust the author is not narrow-minded.

* * *

"A great many men only shoot at week-ends," says a writer. But isn't that the proper place to aim at?

* * *

The House of Commons library contains no novels, but this does not necessarily mean there is no fiction.

* * *

The Kaiser has ordered German officers to wear moustaches. Is he interested in a hair tonic, by any chance?

* * *

While cleaning a herring, a Norwich woman found a diamond. One type of girl always expects a diamond in her ring.

* * *

A baker's daughter recently took an important part in a play. But she is accustomed to handling new roles.

* * *

Doctors state that diseases are spread by children sucking their penholders. They must be taught to eschew them.

* * *

It appears that the slit skirt is at least 4,000 years old. Truly there is nothing new under the sun—nor on the daughter.

* * *

The Southampton footballer whose home has been burgled, would give something to have a "free kick" at the thieves.

* * *

Two suffragettes, described as "A" and "B" have been sent for trial. If they hunger-strike, they will become "C. D."

* * *

"Trees at the South Pole," reads a newspaper heading. Of course; more than one explorer has found himself "up" one.

* * *

A creditor recently described a debtor as "The Duke of Smithfield Market." But apparently he cannot make both ends meet.

* * *

Southend Corporation have decided to transfer a sandbank to the foreshore. They have only to fetch the sea and the place will be complete.

* * *

It is said that a shot at the man in the moon would not be heard by him for a fortnight. And perhaps not at all if it hit him on a tender quarter.

* * *

The *New Labour Gazette*, of Odessa, now has its eleventh editor, whose ten predecessors are all in prison. They should call it the *Hard Labour Gazette*.

* * *

When the keel of Shamrock IV. was cast, Sir Thomas Lipton poured some of the lead into the mould. We hope it will not be necessary for him to pour any more gold into the water.

Our £1,800 Football Contest. Final Coupon This Week.

FINAL COUPON THIS WEEK. READ NEW RULE.

Our Prizes up again! £1,800

FOR AN ALL-CORRECT FOOTBALL COUPON

IMPORTANT NEW RULE.

If you predict a draw you must CROSS OUT BOTH TEAMS, instead of, as heretofore, not crossing out either team. This new rule is made to facilitate our work of adjudication and to further prevent any possibility of fraud.

£500 IF ONE ERROR ONLY.

£400 if two errors only.

£300 for best forecast if more than two errors.

£100 for next best forecast if more than 2 errors

£50 & £20 for two best forecasts on Mauve Coupon.

The RULES and **COUPON** will be found on PAGE 2. of COVER.

This is your last chance to win our Record Football Prize of **£1,800**. or the huge cash contingent prizes offered. In any event the £470 must be won. The final coupon appears this week. Fill in your forecasts at once. You can send in as many coupons as you like.

BEFORE MAKING YOUR FORECASTS READ THE NEW RULE ABOVE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

is to forecast the results of the League Games to be played on Saturday, **DECEMBER 20th**, given on the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover. Draw your pen plainly through the name of the team you think will lose. If you predict a draw, **CROSS OUT BOTH TEAMS.**

£1,800 will be paid to the Competitor sending us an Entrance Form containing correct forecasts of all the matches given, played to a finish.

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

Should it happen that no Entrance Form be received giving the whole of the correct results **£500** will be paid to the competitor whose coupon shows **one error only.**

If no coupon is received containing one error only, then the cash prize of **£400** will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows only **two errors.**

If neither the £1,800, nor the £500, nor the £400 is won, **we shall in any event award four distinct cash prizes which must be won,** i.e., **£300** to the Competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, even if the number be only 8 or 10, and **£100** to the sender of the next best coupon and two special mauve coupon prizes—one of **£50** to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from "Mary Bull," and one of **£20** to the next highest correct forecast on a mauve coupon. In any event two big cash prizes must be won by "Mary Bull" coupons.

In the event of either the £1,800, £500 or the £400 prize being won, the £300 and the £100 prizes will of course not be awarded.

The competition is one of pure skill and competitors should make a point of studying the football columns of the daily papers.

We now give with the entrance form on page 2 of cover a duplicate coupon. This is provided solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

All risk of a coupon being overlooked is, by our elaborate arrangements, totally eliminated and the interests of readers safeguarded in every way.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

£50 AND £20 MAUVE COUPON PRIZES.

We again offer two special and extra prizes of **£50** and **£20** for the best forecasts sent on a mauve coupon taken from "Mary Bull" and signed by a lady. The sender of a mauve coupon has the same opportunity as JOHN BULL readers of winning the **£1,800**, the **£500** or **£400** or the **£300** and **£100**, but should a mauve coupon not win or share any of these chief prizes—senders of the mauve coupon still have the opportunity of winning **£50** and **£20**. This is a distinct advantage which every lady reader should take advantage of and male readers bring to the notice of their lady friends. The final mauve coupon appears in "Mary Bull," on sale Friday next, December 12th.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 9[illegible], where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,323 cash and other prizes value over £2,[illegible]00.

THE "JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEPSTAKE.

As the date for the closing of this Sweep approaches, we are being inundated with applications for particulars, tickets, etc. We must repeat that all communications respecting the Sweep must be made direct to Messrs. SMALLMAN & TERRY, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

LAYS OF A LOWLY LONDONER.

BY BILL THE 'BUSMAN.

THE GHOSTLY PASSENGER.

They tell strange tales of Driver Bob
  And his ghostly passenger,
But their facts don't fit, and it's time I writ
  What actually did occur.

The journey was the last, the 'bus
  Was off at a decent pace
And empty quite, when it came in sight
  Of a gent at a stopping-place.

His hand he raised, his eyes they blazed,
  Like steam his breath did snort;
It made Bob quake as he downed the brake,
  And pulled the 'bus up short.

When Bob he turned again and looked,
  He saw his ghostly friend,
Who hissed, "'Tis well! Now drive like hell,
  Drive to the journey's end!"

And Bob he drove, for he feared the cove,
  Though his man yelled in his ear,
"You obstinate cuss—pull up the 'bus!
  There's devil a passenger here!"

For answer, Bob he put on speed,
  Till the 'bus went like the wind,
And his man cried, "Gad! old Bob's gone mad!"
  As he dropped in the road behind.

And fleet, so fleet, through the echoing street
  They rushed in their crazy ride,
And Bob at the wheel the presence could feel
  Of the grinning ghost inside.

Though many a cop called out, "Stop, stop!"
  Bob answered, "Can't my friend;
I've a gent inside who wants to ride
  Like hell to the journey's end!"

They left the town and its glare behind,
  The night was black as jet,
But the 'bus lights glowed on the Brighton road,
  Faster and faster yet.

And, sure as you're born, at the break of morn,
  They found Bob pinned to the ground;
His 'bus was a wreck, he'd broke his neck—
  And the journey's end was found!

OUR "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

BIRKBECK VICTIM WINS FIRST PRIZE.

We have received the following interesting letter from the winner of the £500 prize in connection with "Bullets" Competition No. 58.

8, Highmoor Road,
Caversham, Reading,
November 27th, 1913.

DEAR SIR,—Your very handsome prize, it is needless to say, I received with great pleasure.

I have practised "Bullet" making for the last few months, receiving for my first effort ten shillings, and since several minor prizes. Although I have been approached by "solutionists" I have ignored them and simply rested on my own efforts.

I like doing "Bullets" very much, as I consider them a splendid brain tonic.

I started in the hope that I might replace a loss in the "Birkbeck," savings of my husband's that he had placed to my credit. He is a retired civil servant, and his pension dies with him.

We both have a spice of JOHN BULL independence, and I can now certainly claim to have taken a chip off the old block with £500 to my credit.

£5 will be sent you for your "Human Document Fund."

I shall continue trying to hit the mark.

A truly happy Christmas season to you and all your staff.

Yours very sincerely,
KATHARINE MAUD BENNETT.

We are sure that our readers will congratulate Mrs. Bennett upon the happy result of her persistence and pluck.

THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC

RUPTURE DISCOVERY

Famous Specialist's Wonderful New Appliance.

ACTS ON A PRINCIPLE ALMOST OPPOSITE TO THAT OF THE OLD STYLE TRUSS.

Inventor, a Royal Warrant Holder and Former Collaborator of Sir William Jenner, Physician to the Late Queen Victoria.

This discovery, official particulars of which are now obtainable free, was made by Mr. Edmund Pallant, a Royal Warrant holder and former collaborator of Sir William Jenner (physician-in-ordinary to the late Queen Victoria and Prince of Wales).

The manner in which it gives instant relief and helps in effecting cures of rupture is so astonishing that not only have doctors, who heretofore could only recommend an operation as a radical cure, advised their patients to wear it, but numbers of medical men who are ruptured have obtained appliances for their own use, and from personal experience state that its action is little short of marvellous.

STARTLING FACTS FOR THE RUPTURED.

In an illustrated book published by the Pallant Rupture Institute, Mr. Pallant makes some startling revelations concerning the old methods of treating, or rather "mistreating," rupture. Among other equally important observations in this book is the statement that a large proportion of all operations for rupture are made necessary by the wearing of badly-constructed or ill-fitting trusses. Remarkable, too, is the statement that rupture will often "cure itself" by healing naturally, and the book explains very clearly the conditions under which rupture is curable, shows how ordinary trusses and appliances often make rupture worse, and minutely describes the new Pallant Curative Appliances. When asked how he hit upon the idea of his invention, Mr. Pallant replied:—

Mr. Edmund Pallant, Inventor of the Pallant Rupture Appliance, and founder of the Pallant Institute. He was often called to the aid of eminent physicians and surgeons in treating rupture, and his services secured Royal Recognition.

"I examined truss after truss and found that *every one of them* exerted an inward and downward pressure, which increased the tendency of abdominal contents to push out. This pressure often makes a complicated injury of what was originally a very simple rupture, and the 'Pallant Appliance' is revolutionary in that it holds rupture on an entirely new principle. My appliance supports rupture with an upward pressure, holding the bowels up instead of forcing them outward. My experience is that the only way to treat rupture is to hold it constantly in place with this gentle upward pressure. Rupture cannot be cured if it comes out even occasionally, and it can hardly ever be cured whilst wearing a truss or appliance that exerts pressure on the old principle. In fact, Many of the older instruments do such harm as cannot be remedied except in the operating theatre of a hospital. For it is to the operating theatre and the surgeon's knife that the ruptured are brought as a last resort, and hospital surgeons say that a great proportion of all the operations performed are made necessary solely by the wearing of ill-fitting or badly-constructed appliances.

"Out of every five men and women compelled to submit to the ordeal of the knife, four would probably never have lain upon the operating table had they been fitted with proper appliances within a reasonable time after being ruptured. When constantly held in place the injury heals, the abdominal muscles recover their elasticity and a natural cure often results."

NEW CURATIVE PRINCIPLE.

Not only does the Pallant Appliance hold rupture with a gentle contractile pressure but it retains the rupture in such a way that it cannot possibly slip, no matter whether the wearer is walking, running, lying down, bathing or performing an athletic act.

MR. PALLANT'S BOOK SENT GRATIS ON APPLICATION.

As it is impossible to give here a full description of the new invention, those interested should apply to the Pallant Rupture Institute for Mr. Pallant's book. A huge edition of this book entitled "The Scientific Alleviation and Cure of Rupture," has just been published. Whilst this edition lasts the books will be sent absolutely free to rupture sufferers and their friends.

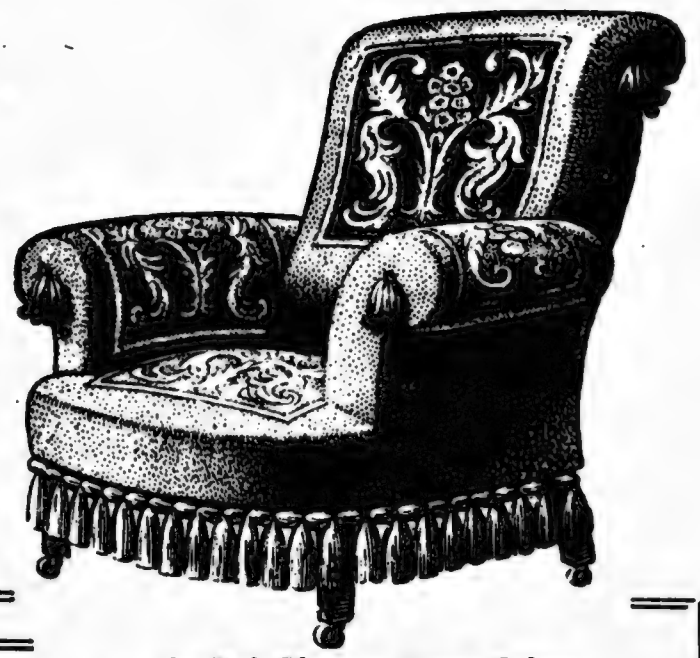
Rupture sufferers who wish to again enjoy the freedom and comfort which they enjoyed before being ruptured are especially invited to apply for Mr. Pallant's book. The address from which to obtain the book in a plain sealed envelope is:

THE PALLANT RUPTURE INSTITUTE, Dept 90.
24a, Regent Street, London, S.W.
A Hospital Surgical Nurse in attendance upon Ladies.

THE

"Oxford" Divan Chair makes a real Xmas Gift.

An Easy Chair that will outwear any Tapestry Chair made.



Nothing can approach the superb value the "Oxford" gives to every purchaser—it is everything that an easy chair *should* be. . . . Materials and workmanship throughout are of the very best procurable. It is extremely roomy, perfectly sprung and represents the very acme of comfort.

The "Oxford" is **NOT** a tapestry chair—but is beautifully upholstered in real Saddlebag, and has a rich and artistic fringe.

The Hackney always give you more for your money—better value.

In Red, Blue, or Green Colours.

4/- WITH ORDER ONLY. Balance 4/- Monthly.

The price of the OXFORD DIVAN CHAIR is 47/6 only. You may either pay cash, or if you prefer fill in the coupon below, and send with it your remittance for 4/-. The balance may be paid in monthly instalments of 4/-

Immediate delivery may be obtained and carriage is paid to your door. . . . We can assure you that it would be quite impossible to obtain a chair of similar character at anything approaching such a moderate price.

COUPON for the immediate delivery of the **OXFORD DIVAN CHAIR.**

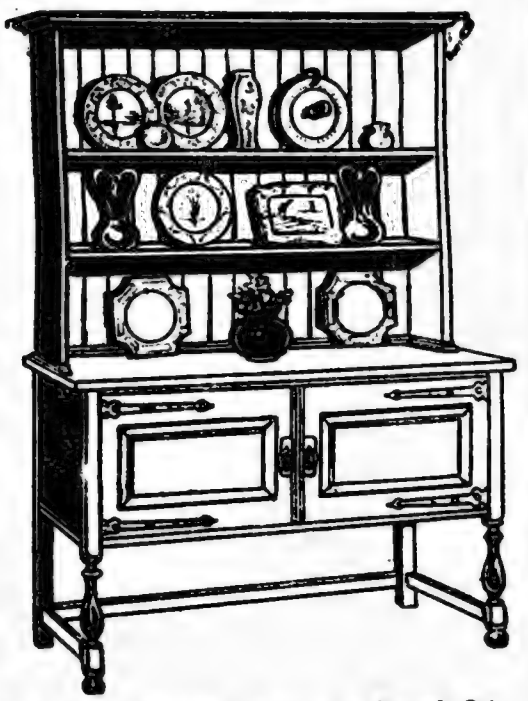
To THE HACKNEY FURNISHING CO., Ltd.,

103, 103a, Oxford Street, or to Head Office at Mare Street, Hackney.

I enclose 4/- for the Oxford Divan Chair, being first payment on 47/6, and agree to send 4/- a month until paid for. Kindly send a .....chair (state whether blue, red, or green colour is required).

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



A simply designed **Dresser** in Fumed Oak. Fitted with cupboard (as illustrated)

£4-4-0

4ft. **JACOBEAN OAK BEDROOM SUITE**, comprising full size wardrobe, double size wash-stand, fitted with towel airers, dressing table, fitted with two drawers and large bevel plate mirror, oxydised handles, and two rush seated chairs, with 4ft. 6in. bedstead in design to match, finely designed and made ... **£16 : 16 : 0**

TERMS FOR MONTHLY PAYMENTS

Worth.	Per Month
£10	£0 6 0
20	0 11 0
30	0 17 0
40	1 5 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
1,000	22 10 0

You may take full advantage of these Easy Payments without finding security or paying **EXTRA INTEREST**—*and your payments may be spread over a period of three years if you wish it. In this way you furnish on ample credit without one penny extra charge.*

Originators of the Deferred Payment System

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FURNISHING CO

WEST END SHOWROOMS— **103 & 103a, OXFORD STREET, W.** Telephone: Gerrard 8098, 8936.

CHIEF SHOWROOMS AND GALLERIES—

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MARE STREET, HACKNEY. Telephone: Dalston 33, 84, 481.

Branches: 448, High Rd., Chiswick, W. (close to Turnham Green).
14, High Rd., Chiswick, W. (3 doors from Young's Corner).
204, High Rd., Streatham (facing Library).
73, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, S.W.
56, George St., Croydon. 110, High St., Putney.

HOURS OF BUSINESS 9 till 9. Oxford Street: 9 till 8.

A. M. STEWART, Managing Director.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see page 916.*]

The Stock Markets.

There is no doubt that the present depression in the Stock Markets is due principally to the persistent flow of new issues, notwithstanding recent lessons. The latest failures are: Argentine Iron and Steel, of which the underwriters had to take nearly 70 per cent.; the British Portland Cement, the underwriters of which have been left with as much as 85 per cent.; and, finally, the Canadian Government Loan, which appears to have been subscribed by the public to the extent of only about 40 per cent. This is another severe rebuff to the Canadian Government. The last Toronto Loan is quoted at 1½ discount nominal, and in financial circles attention is being directed to the haphazard methods of finance which have been adopted by the Toronto authorities. Preparations are now afoot for a number of other important Loans; but it is really time that a halt was called. Consols are suffering severely from the competition of the new issues, and have fallen to the low record of 72 for cash. Attempts are being made in Wall Street to engineer an improvement in Americans, and this has succeeded to a certain extent, owing to the existence of a "bear" account there. The Mexican trouble is dragging along, and President Wilson's waiting policy is certainly not in favour of Mexican stocks, as, unless Mexico gets financial assistance from Europe, default can hardly be avoided on January 1 when the coupons fall due. Breweries generally are still in good form, but Showells are an exceptionally weak spot, as a good many of the shareholders in this Company object, and, in our opinion, rightly so, to the very stringent terms of amalgamation with Allsopps. The rubber statistical position is sound enough, but the Rubber Growers' Association has not yet been able to put forward a workable scheme to help the market. Very different is the position in the Oil Share Market, and a sign of the times is the fact that the leading financial firms have now formally identified themselves with the great Shell-Royal Dutch combine, in connection with the latest issue. This should benefit the whole of the Oil market. There are rumours of the deep boring operations on the Maikop field having at last achieved success, and when these are confirmed there should also be a distinct revival in this section.

Geographical Distribution of Losses.

The patience of shareholders in the original London, Australian and General Exploration Company, Limited, a Bewick, Moreing and Co. concern, must be well-nigh exhausted. The Company was formed in 1894 with a capital of £100,000, was reconstructed first in 1895 and again in 1909, when its title was changed to London, Australian and General Exploration Company, Limited, the capital having meanwhile been raised to £212,000, fresh assessments having been made on the occasion of each reconstruction. The Company paid dividends until 1907, when it incurred a debit balance of some £120,000. No dividends have since been paid. Its interests are in Australia, Burma, Maikop, Cornwall, Porcupine, Ceylon and South Africa, and four busy gentlemen in the City of London, all of them directors of several other concerns, have looked after this geographical distribution of interests to such effect that a loss of £32,149 has been sustained during the year. Their excuse is "the disturbed state of public affairs in many countries, the absence of public interest in mining enterprises, and the excessive number of public issues." We are pleased to note that the unprecedented interest which our readers are taking in our various skill competitions has not proved an additional adverse factor with which the board has been obliged to grapple!

Consolidated Diesel Engine.

We trust that the late directors of the Consolidated Diesel Engine Manufacturers, Limited, do not think that because they have resigned they have absolved themselves from the responsibility which they have incurred for the present position of the Company. The committee of shareholders just appointed should quickly disabuse their minds of such an idea. We have seldom come across anything more reprehensible than the conduct of the late board, continued and persisted in down to the eleventh hour, when, finding themselves out-marshalled, they retired from the fray. When the report of the committee is received, a good deal more should be heard of the matter.

Canadian Borrowing Week by Week.

We thought we had sized up the position fairly well, and that we might give Canada a rest for at least a few weeks. But these insatiable borrowers have beaten us, and, incidentally, Consols down to a fresh low record. It is not too much to say that the market was absolutely staggered by the announcement of a Dominion loan of £4,000,000 in 4 per cents. at 97. It is only about two months since £3,000,000 similar stock was issued at 99, and the final instalment was not paid up when the new issue made its appearance. Moreover, in the meantime, a million of Treasury bills has been placed, but with all the £8,000,000 there is not a single word about one of those chimerical *Dreadnoughts* materialising! That is merely by the way; what is really of importance is that there has always been an honourable tradition among Government borrowers that two big loans will not be issued in such close succession unless the second can be placed on better terms than the first. Of course, there are exceptions; if a country is at war it has to make the best terms how and when it can. But the reason for the general rule is obvious; subscribers to the first issue are badly treated by having an exactly similar security offered on lower terms immediately afterwards, and in this case the price of the September loan dropped over two points as soon as the latest flotation was announced. To put it bluntly, purchasers of the September issue have been robbed of 2 per cent. of their money, and there can be no possible excuse for such conduct on the part of the Canadian Government or its financial advisers, the Bank of Montreal. It must have been perfectly well known to both parties to this nefarious transaction when the September issue was made that a further £4,000,000 would be required before the end of the year, and intending investors ought at least to have had the option of deciding whether to take their quota of the first lot or to wait on the chance of paying either more or less for the second. That the Government has deliberately chosen to hoodwink investors will have a very damaging effect on Canadian credit, and will help to precipitate the crisis which is inevitable. One immediate result is that the Toronto loan of £1,200,000 in 4½ per cents. at 97½ was barely half subscribed, and British Columbia had a struggle to place £360 000 in short-dated notes privately. All this merely tends to emphasise what we said about the Montreal issue that was supposed to be such a wonderful success; it is doubtful whether the public took as much as 5 per cent. of it.

A New Transport Service.

In these days of threatened railway strikes a practical scheme for dealing with the traffic problem is bound to be of interest. A few months ago we referred to the formation of an enterprise known as the Greater Omnibus Services, Ltd., which may very probably revolutionise the existing system of public transport. It is proposed to link up by motor omnibus and char-a-banc services practically every important centre in the country, and under proper and business-like management the undertaking should have excellent prospects of success. We understand that the Company will be making an issue of its shares in a few days' time, and we shall not be surprised if the scheme is heartily supported by the public. The Board is a practical one, and includes Mr. Stuart A. Curzon who, we believe, has been the sole Concessionaire to the London General Omnibus Co. for some time past. A copy of the full prospectus can be obtained from 98, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Oil Trust.

Formed in 1910 with the object of procuring oil-bearing properties and financing them, the Oil Trust, Limited, prospectus published a report from Mr. J. D. Henry, who, in the words of that document, had "made a close professional study of oil company organisation and work in all parts of the world." He stated amongst other things that "a study of the chief features of the project has made it clear to me that the objects of the Oil Trust are business-like and sound, even down to the smallest detail of organisation, and offer an almost limitless field for the profitable investment of British capital." So "business-like and sound" has been the policy of the board that the first report showed a realised profit of £2,153 and an unrealised "profit" of £40,671. The second report now issued shows a realised loss of £84,828. Here also, as in the case of other recent fiascos, the original directors have washed their hands of the concern; but the present board suggest that action be taken against their predecessors, and the matter is to be discussed at the meeting of the Company about to be held, when it will be proposed to reduce the capital by 50 per cent.

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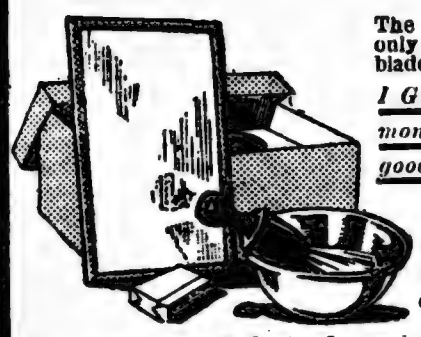

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DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter I am pleased to say that I am **entirely cured of the smoking and chewing habit.** I shall never want to smoke again, as it is some time now since I tried the treatment, and I am sure that this is good evidence that your Treatment has been successful.

I feel **better in health than I have been for years** since taking your Treatment, and I have gained 1½ stone in 12 months, and I can climb a hill with my bicycle now **without any thumping at the heart,** and do my work better down in the coal mine where I am working.

Many times I had been told by the doctor to give up smoking, but **could never do so on my own accord,** but since taking your Treatment I can truthfully say that I have had **no desire to smoke whatever.** I have smoked for 16 years. I smoked both cigarettes and tobacco and also chewed.

You have my full permission to publish this in any way you see fit, and I shall be pleased to answer enquiries at any time.

I thank you with all my heart for what you have done for me, and wish you every success in your good work.

Yours very gratefully,
ELIJAH PARKER.

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I offer a genuine guaranteed remedy for tobacco or snuff habit in 72 hours. It is mild, pleasant, strengthening. Overcomes that peculiar **nervousness** and craving for **cigarettes, cigars, pipe, chewing tobacco,** or **snuff.** Tobacco is **poisonous** and seriously **injures the health** in several ways. **It is unsafe and torturing** to attempt to cure yourself of tobacco and snuff habit by suddenly stopping—don't do it! By my method you can quickly and easily give up tobacco and enjoy yourself a thousand times better, while feeling always in robust health. My FREE book tells all about the **wonderful 3 days' Method.** Full particulars, including my **Book on Tobacco Habit,** sent in plain wrapper, **free.**—Address—

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JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—AFRICANDER.—By all means hold on to your shares. Oil or no oil in South Africa (although the point would seem to be no longer in doubt), the company has a great future.

MOTOR PETROL ASSOCIATION.—J. B. (Warminster).—If you can reclaim your money, do so, and consider yourself well out of it.

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL.—MRS. K. W. (Devon).—The Mexican Eagle is undoubtedly a valuable oil property, but so much depends upon events in Mexico, and whether the property will be damaged by the rebels, that it would be advisable to defer a purchase of the shares until the situation improves.

MEXICAN A OIL.—BLACK BARNSLEY.—It is obvious that the Mexican chaos has also upset calculations in the case of this Company. Hold your shares, but do not buy any more until the outlook clears.

BRITISH MAIKOP.—A. R. (East Ham).—We do not advise purchase of these shares, in view of the disappointing character of developments. If you wish to invest in oil shares, why not put your money into Anglo-Maikops, which Company has just announced a dividend of 5 per cent. Or, for a gamble, Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.

HOME RAILS.—F. W. S. (Stockton).—Buying Great Eastern at present means that for every £50 10s. paid, this being the present quotation, you get £100 nominal of stock. On the other hand, £100 nominal of North Western stock cannot be purchased for less than £130. North Eastern Consols are also £100 stock, and quoted at nearly £121. The last two mentioned are excellent investments in the Home Railway department.

JOHN BULL BANK.—ENQUIRER.—The Bank is doing a large business and you need have no apprehension as to the safety of your deposit.

GLASGOW INDUSTRIAL SYNDICATE.—MIDLOTHIAN.—We cannot trace the existence of such a concern.

COBRA BANKET.—J. H. S. (Bolton).—We do not consider it advisable to throw more good money after bad by joining the reconstruction of the discredited concern.

N. A. P. PNEUMATIC TYRE.—IPSWICH.—We cannot trace this concern in any of the usual books of reference, and regret being unable to supply you with the information asked for.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN MORTGAGE.—CLUTCH.—This is a prosperous Company, whose £2 shares are quoted at 4⅛. They cannot, however, be called "safe." It is a matter for yourself to judge whether a solicitor should keep the certificates. Why not lodge them in a Safe Deposit, and thus have no doubts at all regarding the matter?

M. COMPANY.—G. STOURBRIDGE.—No information is available regarding this Syndicate, and caution is advisable. Do not put any money into it unless you are furnished with unimpeachable references.

CANADIAN STOCKS.—OLD TIREE.—No special reason for selling either Victoria, B.C. 4 per cent., Calgary 4½ per cent., or Grand Trunk Guaranteed. Instead of buying more of these, however, why not put some money into the Western Australian 4½ per cent. Loans, which are the pick of the Colonial basket.

BRIDGE BRICKWORKS (Cardiff).—O. X.—No special information is available here regarding this concern. It has apparently not paid its Debenture interest for a couple of years.

HITBREAD AND CO.—H. (Crouch Hill).—This is one of the better-class Brewery Companies, and you might divide the sum in question between the 4 per cent. Debenture at 82, and the 3½ per cent. B Debenture at 65, or put the whole amount into one of these stocks.

RHODESIA, LIMITED.—W. P. (Stoneyburn).—This Company has been a disappointment, but there is no option now but to hold, in the hope of better times for this and other Rhodesian concerns. No recent information is available.

ELSWICK SYNDICATE.—T. A. S. (Gloucester).—From the way you put it, you certainly have a grievance against the promoters, and you should not, at any rate, pay further calls without a protest. Of course, you would have to put the matter into the hands of a solicitor, and the question is whether you will risk having to pay an unknown amount in law costs.

BANK INVESTMENT.—IRONOPOLIS.—Yes, the deposit rate is regulated by the Bank Rate. The latter is at present 5 per cent., and the deposit rate is 1 per cent. less. North Eastern Consols appear to be a good investment, now that that Company has come to terms with its men.

WEST RAND CONSOLS.—SHEEBEAR.—There cannot be much risk in holding your shares at the present price, as there is always a prospect of things improving in the near future, especially when the Labour situation rights itself.

B.M.C. PROCESS.—ST. AUSTELL (Cornwall).—This communication is certainly interesting, but why is it necessary to tout for the purchase of a concern with an authorised capital of only £1,100 if the process does all that is claimed for it? There are plenty of capitalists in the City of London who can put up any amount of money for good things, and we do not advise you to step in where they fear to tread. In any case, before public subscriptions are invited, the Process should be established on a commercial footing, and some actual results shown.

SMALL PRIVATE COMPANY.—T. W. (Manchester).—In our opinion, both resolutions are void. No resolutions passed at an extraordinary general meeting are valid unless specified in the notice convening it.

CONFEDERATE STATE COTTON BONDS.—H. C. (Liverpool).—Apply to the American Consul-General, who will no doubt advise you in the matter. We are not aware of any value attaching to these Bonds.

BELFAST HARBOUR STOCK.—YING CHOW.—Any of these stocks are quite safe as an investment, and all are redeemable at not less than par. The fall is due to the general depression of the gilt-edged market.

LIGHTNING CREEK.—H. E. (St. Albans).—We are afraid that you never will get any dividend on these shares. No information is available as regards development, and you might make some inquiries of the Secretary, Mr. T. P. Banson, 13, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C. There is no market.

CANADIAN DEPOSITS.—SEVERN.—The concern is no doubt safe enough; but we do not like the fixed system of deposits, as anything can happen during a lengthy period. Be content with a smaller interest, and have your capital under your own control.

N. .. GIRLING MOTORS.—W. H. P. (Llanelly).—There is no quo a tion for these shares, and, in the circumstances, no option but to hold.

PELTONS; DEUCHARS.—M. B. (Bexhill).—No information available as regards Peltons (Croydon); but we doubt whether you will get anything out of the winding-up. As regards Robert Deuchar no dividend has been paid on the Preference shares since 1909, and on the Ordinary shares since December, 1907. Neither is quoted, but now that Breweries generally are improving, you might as well hold.

METROPOLITAN AND COUNTIES INVESTORS.—ANGLO SCOT.—We do not advise.——R. C. (Beccles).—Everything depends upon whether the firm were entitled to close your account, and, in the absence of fuller particulars, we are afraid we cannot advise you.

CANADIAN SECURITIES.—COGMES.—There is no need to worry yourself. Our remarks were for the purpose of pointing out how Canada was depreciating her credit, and we did not mean that there was any danger of default on the securities of the class mentioned. You might as well hold now. As regards the further £100 to invest, you might put this into Westralian 4 per cent. at under 98.

FIRE COMPENSATION COMPANY, LIMITED.—J. C. A. (Kennington).—We observed that, having submitted a claim in respect of goods destroyed by fire for 27s. 9d., a representative called and advised you to accept 25s., which you agreed to do. Subsequently, the Secretary wrote offering 20s., which you declined. Up to the present you have been unable to obtain a settlement, and, although you have called at the office on several occasions, you have failed to see the Secretary. This method of conducting business is alike vexatious and unsatisfactory. You had better renew your demand for payment of the 25s., sending your letter under registered cover.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—T. R. (Glam.).—We should advise you not to take the risk of insuring the life of your father "for £100, no medical examination is required." You may only effect an assurance for funeral expenses, and this should not exceed, say the sum of £20. Before joining, make yourself acquainted with the conditions relating to lapses and surrenders.

NORTH-WESTERN INSURANCE COMPANY.—MANAGER.—We note that the capital uncalled is represented by the sum of £160,000 "held by some of the wealthiest men of the leather trade in this country." What we have to consider, however, is the result of the trading operations, and a surplus of 7.44 per cent. of the premiums is not by any means too large. On the whole, and having regard to the age of the Company, the record so far may be considered reasonably satisfactory.

GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—QUERY.—We observe that you are disappointed with the bonus allocated to your policy over a period of thirty-seven years, and that by comparison with another office the difference means a big loss on the amount of premiums you have contributed. We hope to be able to deal with the points you have raised very shortly. At the moment, however, we are overwhelmed with inquiries.

UNITED NATIONAL FRIENDLY ASSURANCE COLLECTING SOCIETY.—J. N. (Clydebank).—We have not a good opinion of this Society, and, if you can obtain a cash surender payment, accept it and take out a policy with a stronger office.

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

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THE GREAT EXTENSION OF MOTOR OMNIBUS TRAFFIC

The London type of Motor and London system of management and service to be inaugurated throughout England, in Districts of Greatest Population, by Greater Omnibus Services (Limited).

THE comparative test between motor-omnibus transportation and railway transportation, proposed by Mr. Stuart A. Curzon, Managing Director of Greater Omnibus Services (Limited), draws attention to the great strides which motor-omnibus services have made and are making, and to the great advance in economy and in regularity of service which is now made possible as the fruit of years of experience in the management of motor-omnibus services in town and country. Even as short a time ago as 1911 few, indeed, could have brought themselves to believe that a given number of passengers could be conveyed for the distance of an average railway journey at less cost and at greater speed by motor-omnibus than by railway, yet that is the basis of the comparative test which Mr. Stuart A. Curzon has urged upon the President and members of the Royal Commission on British Railways as the best means of demonstrating clearly, once and for all, the greater economy of the motor-omnibus.

The great activity in the establishment of motor-omnibus services which was predicted some months ago has already commenced, and under arrangements with Greater Omnibus Services (Limited), motor-omnibus transportation is now inaugurated in a number of towns and populous districts, and services in a still larger number of districts—the total population of which is in the millions—are now in negotiation.

The Marquis of Tweeddale has recently joined the board of Greater Omnibus Services (Limited), and in order to cope with the boom in motor traffic, and to maintain the commanding position which the company holds in this field, by virtue of its vast facilities and important contracts, arrangements have been made for a considerable increase of capital by the issue of £200,000 in shares. The company has completed all the essential plans for a system of motor-omnibus services which, under a central ownership and management, will traverse all the principal roads of England connecting large towns, small towns, and villages. Services of motor-omnibuses, of the type brought to perfection in London, will be inaugurated in other cities and towns of large population in England which at present have not the advantages of motor-omnibus service. Motor-omnibus lines between the large cities, towns and villages in large centres of population will also be operated. Thus, eventually the services

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from the various centres will be so linked with one another that it may be possible, by transferring from one service to another, to travel the length and breadth of England without using any other form of transportation than the motor-omnibus. The new company, Greater Omnibus Services (Limited) should thus become to the larger towns what the London General Omnibus Company (Limited) is to London. The extensions of the new company will follow. The many and diverse forms of service such as are seen in the case of the London General Omnibus Company are examples of the types of service the new company has in mind in planning its extensions. These different forms of service are made possible, first, by the great ease and rapidity with which motor-omnibuses can be transferred from one centre to another; second, by the promptitude with which new routes can be added to the service; and third, by the great radius of action of the motor-omnibus.

The motor-omnibus, with these advantages, is enabled to earn profits at one day's notice on a new route, where tramways, because of the great capital investment which would be required, could not be considered. Before the initial cost of tramways could be ventured the present and prospective profit of new routes would have to be gauged long and carefully. On the other hand, new routes can be entered upon by the motor-omnibus promptly, and at once the earnings of the route, instead of being a matter of calculation in which a certain element of theory must enter, can be put to actual test. If the route does not return sufficient profit it can be dropped as promptly as it was taken up, and the omnibuses can be transferred to another and more profitable route.

The mobility of the modern motor-omnibus fleet affords many other advantages as well. The traffic manager, having his fleet, is freed from all the considerations of first cost which hamper the tramway on entering on a new route. He is able to test at once and fasten upon the cream of the most profitable routes. The earning possibilities of each route being proved by his existing fleet of omnibuses, practically every *new* motor-omnibus added to the fleet has a well-proved and profitable market waiting for its service even before it leaves the shops.

Furthermore, because of the ease and speed with which motor-omnibuses can be transferred from one centre to another, or from one route to another, the company is enabled to work each omnibus to the utmost for seven days in each week, thus reducing to a minimum the time in which the investment is idle.

Greater Omnibus Services, therefore, in addition to services in cities and their suburbs, will operate lines connecting smaller towns, special services for Sunday and holiday traffic, and private charter service, etc.

ALL ROADS OPEN TO IT.

The greatest reason underlying the success of motor-omnibuses is, of course, the fact that all the roads in the kingdom which are now suitable for any motor traffic are open to the services inaugurated by the company. No right of way need be purchased, and there is no expense which parallels the great initial outlay for rails, road-bed, bridges, etc., which must be made by any railway or tramway company before it can begin to do business.

In securing its traffic the motor-omnibus has the great advantage over the railway in that it takes up passengers practically at their doors and carries them to the business centre of the town to which they travel, instead of setting them down at the outskirts of the town, as is so often the case with railways.

Though all of these facts are quite familiar to those who live in London and the metropolitan area, and by them are now recognised as matters of course, it might be imagined that all of these advantages are already in existence in the provinces just as they are in London. Such is not the case, however. Very many of the most closely populated districts in England are still awaiting the convenience and economy which the motor-omnibus affords.

Certain industrial areas in the provinces, it must be remembered, rival the metropolis in population. Thus the inauguration of the company's system at the principal centres in that portion of Lancashire and other counties through which services are proposed to be operated will link together large populations in the vicinity of towns such as:—

Liverpool	746,566	Great Harwood	13,817
Bootle	69,881	Horwich	16,286
Manchester	714,427	Padiham	13,637
Salford	231,380	Preston	117,113
Accrington	45,031	Bamber Bridge	23,000
Burnley	103,377	Rochdale	91,437
Bolton	180,885	Riston	7,441
Bury	58,649	Southport	51,650
Blackpool	38,376	Wigan	89,171
Blackburn	133,034	Leigh	44,109
Clayton-le-Moors	8,871	Warrington	72,178
Chorley	30,317	Leicester	227,242
		Burton	48,275

Motor-omnibus services connecting towns and villages in the thickly-populated districts of industrial England can be operated now practically without regard to railway competition. As a recent article on this subject has pointed out:—"It is safe to say that the fare for the return journey will be considerably less than the cost of a railway ticket, as a seat in a motor-omnibus on any route costs less than a seat in a train. Just as the motor-car has taken away from the railway trains any number of first-class passengers, so now the motor-omnibus, pushing its way out already as far as Maidenhead, Windsor, Hatfield and St Albans, is claiming, and will continue to claim, the third-class passengers.

It must be borne in mind, however, that motor-omnibuses are not necessarily competitors of tramways and railways, though (as Mr. Curzon's proposed comparative test would indicate) they now have no reason to fear either form of competition. In fact, where circumstances permit, the motor-omnibus service is a most valuable feeder for tram lines, opening quickly an area far beyond the tram termini.

L.G.O. EXPERIENCE.

Associated with the company as directors are Mr. F. W. Sanderson, who was for 20 years traffic manager of the London General Omnibus Company; Mr. Stuart A. Curzon, engineer, formerly of the L.G.O.; Mr. Harold Plumridge, late of the purchasing department of the L.G.O.; and Mr. C. G. Windsor, of the General Omnibus Supply (Limited).

The new company, therefore, has the advantage of entering a business field in which all of the experimental work has already been done by the London General Omnibus Company, and the still greater advantage of the fact that the management of all its principal departments will be in the hands of men who have been engaged in this business for many years, and have been identified with this great and highly profitable new industry from its inception.

Greater Omnibus Services, moreover, enjoys an additional advantage in that it is equipped with omnibuses of proved efficiency. The London General Omnibus Company has contracted to supply a fleet of motor-omnibuses, so that the new company is able to start operations immediately

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The List will be opened this week.

with vehicles of proved reliability. The new company, on its part, has bound itself not to work these omnibuses within a distance of 30 miles of Charing Cross or in any way in competition with the London General Omnibus Company.

Other omnibuses will be built for the new company in the Walthamstow works, where the L.G.O. omnibuses have been constructed, and will be of precisely the same type as has proved so efficient in the L.G.O. service.

Londoners may not have realised it, but it is a fact that no other city in the world now enjoys so perfect a system of street transportation. The superiority and convenience of the London motor-omnibus and the magnificent development of London motor-omnibus services during Mr. Curzon's administration as engineer have attracted the attention of all the capital cities of the world.

Municipalities throughout England are turning their attention now to the system developed by the London General Omnibus Company, and to the special type of motor-omnibus which represents the concentrated experience of years. It is in these municipalities that the new company, Greater Omnibus Services (Limited), has met with its first and most eager reception.

MOTOR CHAR-A-BANC TRAFFIC.

Visitors to holiday resorts, whose patronage has caused the remarkable increase in motor char-a-banc business in the last two years will be catered for by another important department of the company's service. With its very large fleet of cars, and owing to the speed and ease with which cars can be transferred from one centre to another, the company is able to put cars into the holiday pleasure tour service whenever the profit of such service makes it worth while, and to withdraw the cars and place them in regular service the moment the holiday demand decreases. As privately owned motor char-a-banc cars must be idle when the holiday demand is at an end, Greater Omnibus Services (Limited) have a distinct advantage in this respect, as their motor-omnibuses will be earning profits daily in regular services, both before and after they are assigned to the holiday pleasure service. An example of this class of traffic was the great fleet of privately chartered motor-omnibuses which appeared at the Derby this year.

This Week's Omnibus Issue.

The subscription list for the issue of shares of Greater Omnibus Services (Limited) will be opened on Saturday next. Copies of the prospectus may be had on application to the Secretary, Mr. Frank S. Baker, 98, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

BIGGEST PRIZE LIST IN THE WORLD!

Cash Prizes Increased This Week.

1ST PRIZE! **£500** **1ST PRIZE!**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

250 PRIZES	4,000 OTHER PRIZES	1,000 PRIZES
OF 5/- EACH.	VALUE £900	OF 2/6 EACH.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
CONTRADICTING WIFE
GOOD OLD TIMES
HATED ACT
MERRY THOUGHTS
A BITTER PILL
POSTMAN'S TROUBLES
BABY GRAND
IN THE SLUMS
LOOSE HABITS
ALWAYS AT WORK
ILL CONCEALED
WITHOUT DOUBT
AN HONEST MAN
HER PAST
GOOD MORNING
STARTLING NEWS
THE UPPER HAND
RUINS MARY
AWFULLY CONCEITED
IN A HOLE
PARTY GAMES
KEEPING WATCH
MY MATE
LO AND BEHOLD
GIVEN AWAY
ARMY SCANDALS
WON'T COME OFF
SECOND NATURE
WITHOUT CHOICE
SAD FOOL
KINDRED SPIRITS
I DON'T LIKE
ACQUIRED TASTE
MATCHLESS
MAKING ADVANCES
GHOST STORIES
ROUND THE TABLE
GOING OUT
BEATING TIME

5,323 PRIZES THIS WEEK

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "WITHOUT DOUBT," and take the letters "W" and "T," using the word "like" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "WOMEN LIKE TEA." From the example "GIVEN AWAY" the Bullet "GOOD ADVICE" can be formed. Again, if you choose the example "CONTRADICTING WIFE," using the letter "D" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet "DANGEROUS FOR DWARF."

Competitors may send in TWO BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition, are in no way debarred from winning again.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see The "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, December 17th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(63) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 919.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated December 20th.

Closing date, Wednesday, December 17th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(63) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 919.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 63," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

The Result of this Competition will appear in our issue dated January 3rd.

For Rules, etc., see opposite page.

RESULT OF 60TH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

The Rev. CHAS. P. HORAN,
Old Hall, Ware, Herts.

Example.—RAPID PROMOTION.
Bullet.—MISSIONARY ENCOUNTERS TIGER.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. FRED T. MURRAY,
78, Kent Road, Swindon, Wilts.

Example.—GERMAN INVASION.
Bullet.—IF WATCH STOPS.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. O. H. GREEN,
"Heathfield," Hornchurch Road, Romford.

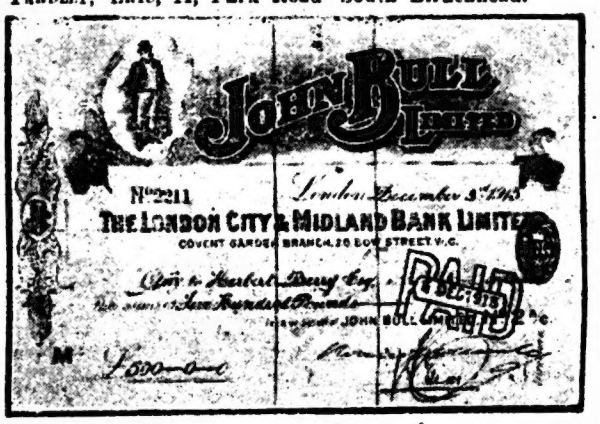
Example.—BARGAIN BASEMENT.
Bullet—SEE "FLAW" BELOW.

20 Prizewinners of £2 10s. each

Mr. C. L. THRIPPLETON, 33, Roundhay Avenue, Leeds:
GERMAN INVASION—SLIGHTED UNTIL SIGHTED.
Mr. F. GRANT, 140, Clyde Road, South Tottenham, N.:
NOT FOUND OUT—NOT NEIGHBOURS' FAULT.
Mr. G. CLARKE, 9, Rosedale Road, Forest Gate, E.:
NOT FOUND OUT—DESTOR—TILL DARK.
Mr. H. F. CARRICK, 34, Grosvenor Place, Blackman Lane, Leeds:
FOLLOWS SUIT—TOE, TACK, TANGO.
Mr. F. R. GALE, 47, Chester Street, Wrexham:
MAIDEN HANDICAP—MOTHER MADE DRESS.
Mr. W. MEEK, 88, Heythorp Street, Southfields, S.W.:
PAWNTICKETS—EXPLAIN "FLUSHED" CONDITION.
Mr. J. HARRISON, 269, Lake View Terrace, Windsor Avenue, Gateshead-on-Tyne:
PANEL PHYSIC—"TOLE" RUSH PRESENTLY.
Mr. S. R. CHRISTOPHER, 29, High Street, Strood, Rochester:
A COMMON SIGHT—OLD SOLDIER "STUMPED."
Mr. S. DERBYSHIRE, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent:
CLINGING HABITS—HIP HIP ARRAY.
Mr. H. A. STALLAN, War Office, S.W.:
A BIG TURNOVER—THE "PENDULUMS" BLAMED.
Mr. C. MARTIN, 28, Vera Road, Clydach, Swansea Valley.
BARGAIN BASEMENT—STOCK OF AGES.
Mr. A. E. HARRISON, 186, Lower Chaplin Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent:
A BIG TURNOVER—TEETOTALISM—JANUARY ONE.
Mr. W. BROWN, 73, Northcote Street, South Shields:
SHAKING HANDS—SIGN VESTRY DOCUMENTS.
Mr. A. DAVIDSON, 83, Monmouth Road, North End, Portsmouth:
MUSICIANS STRIKE—RESTAURANT DINERS REJOICE.
Mr. W. F. GIDDENS, 47, Carisbrooke Road, Walthamstow, N.E.
WHAT ULSTER WANTS—A "CORK STOPPER."
Mr. E. REES, 22, Dynevor Road, Stoke Newington, N.:
A BIG TURNOVER—USUALLY WINTERTIME—ROADS.
Mr. H. LEVY, 2, Sydney Street, Chelsea, S.W.:
DRESS PARADE—"ALTOGETHER" TOO SCANTY.
Mr. G. HARRINGTON, 58, Adys Road, East Dulwich, S.E.:
PAWN TICKETS—"ADVANCE PROOFS."
Mr. W. BARRONS, 16, Den Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife.
COLD MUTTON—MURPHY WISHES LARKIN.
Miss V. M. GATES, 10, Arundel Terrace, Kemp Town, Brighton
WELCOME LITTLE STRANGER—ELDERLY COUPLE'S SURPRISE.

250 PRIZEWINNERS OF 10s.

ASHBY, R. W., 43, Clonbrook Road, Stoke Newington, N.
BACON, L., 17, Shakespeare Avenue, Bath.
BEATTIE, G., 195, High Street, West Bromwich.
BELL, J., 62, Bloom Street, Edgeley, Stockport.
BIRD, F. H., 4, Norwich Road, Watton, Norfolk.
BROOKS, ROSE, 2, George Street, Plymouth.
CALVERT, C. E. H., 87, Market Street, Chorley.
CLARK, R., 67, Raglan Road, Plumstead, S.E.
CLARKE, R. D., 5, Rosslyn Road, Newport, Mon.
COOKE, Mrs. E., 40, Leconfield Road, Highbury, N.
COOPER, H., 11, Hindmans Road, East Dulwich, S.E.
COX, C. J., 91, Kyrle Road, Clapham, S.W.
CURRY, R., 45, Kilmartin Avenue, Norbury, S.W.
CUTLER, E., Hilderstone, Stone, Staffs.
DAVISON, J. W., 75, Blythe Street, Wombwell, nr. Barnsley.
EAGLE, J., 26, Cranfield Road, Wallington, Surrey.
ELLIS, W. W., 7, All Saints Road, Peterborough.
FENN, A., 10, Holly Place, Enfield, Middlesex.
GAEK, J. H., 91, School Lane, Didsbury, Manchester.
GRAHAM, Rev. G., 5, Palmerston Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, W.
HORNER, NELLIE, 16, Butcher Row, Beverley.
HUDSON, S., 44, Westbourne Gardens, Hove, Sussex.
JONES, N., 59, Church Street, Bilston, Staffs.
JONES, T. O., 22, Syren Street, Kirkdale, Liverpool.
JONES, A. H., 44, Upper Derby Road, North End, Portsmouth.
KITCHER, H., "Anchor and Hope," Lymington, Hants.
KRANTH, Mrs. B., 16, Armoury Road, Small Heath, Birmingham.
LEECH, H. S., 84, Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, Birmingham.
LOWE, T., 123, George Street, Sandford Hill, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.
MADGE, J. C., 54, Isis Street, Earlsfield, S.W.
MCAINSH, A., 7, Tankerville Road, Streatham, S.W.
MOORE, E. C., Capel, Surrey.
MOUNTFORD, CHAS., Crabb's Cross, Redditch
NORFOLK, G., 302, Harrow Road, Paddington, W.
PARRY, Mrs. C., 243, London Road, Northwich, Cheshire.
RAPLEY, SYDNEY G. K., c/o F. O. Turner, Esq., Longton Green, Tunbridge Wells.
RICHARDSON, W. G., 49, Ravensworth Street, Willington,
RUTTER, Miss H., 6, Rosedale Terrace, Fulwell, Sunderland.
SEARLE, Mr., 32, St. Joseph's Road, Hornsey, N.
SHEPPARD, F. L., 308, Gt. Western Street, Rusholme, Manchester.
SHEPPARD, I. B., 38, Sundorne Road, Charlton, S.E.
SHONE, Mrs. ADA, 69, Furnace Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.
SMITHURST, FRANK, 499, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield.
SNOWDON-CARTER, J., Burrows Lodge, Wind Street, Swansea, S. Wales.
WALDEN, Miss N. E., Rosebank, Sydenhar Hill Road.
WALKER, GEO., Woodmancote, Dursley, Gloucester.
WATFORD, E. P., 33, Upper Brook Street, Ipswich.
WHITE, J. H., 139, Abbeyfield Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.
WORSLEY, F., 118, Albert Palace Mansions, Battersea, S.W.
YARDLEY, ERIC, 14, Park Road South Birkenhead.



Reduced facsimile of the

£500 "BULLETS" CHEQUE

paid to last week's First Prize Winner.

The original of the above cheque will be on view at the premises of Mr. S. J. Berry, Newsagent, 5, High Street, Crediton, for one week, commencing Thursday December 11th.

Selection from 1,000 2s. 6d. Prize Winners.

ABBOTT, MRS., 18, Priory-rd., Sherwood.
ABBOTT, E., 3, Grosvenor-place, S.W.
ABEL, H., Regent-st., Shanklin, I.O.W.
ABRAHAM, MRS., 31, Grove-st., Aant, Ffyllon, nr. Bridgend.
ABRAHAM, H. M., 22, Doughty-st., Guilford-st., W.C.
ACTON, H. W., 12, Bradbourne-st., Parsons Green, S.W.
ADDERLEY, H. C., Highgate Inn, Tunstall.
ADIE, J., 39, Holborn-viaduct, E.C
AITKEN, C., c/o Wilson, 11, Hamilton-st., Greenock.
ALGERTON, MRS. E., Manhattan, Burgate-ru, Fenstowe.
ALLEN, F. W., 10, Coleridge walk, Hendon.
ALLEN, E., 80, Arundel-rd., Gt. Yarmouth.
ALLEN, E. C., 31, Malden-rd., Borenam Wood S.O.
ALLEN, MRS., 59, Heygate-av., Southend-on-Sea.
ALLEN, I. J., 41, Sheppal-st., Canning Town.
ALLISON, A. W., 19, Dewsbury-st., Hull.
ALLSOP, W., 4, Bond-st., Wolverhampton.
ALSTON, W., 24, Stalmine-rd., Walton, Liverpool.
AMBLER, W., 88, Thornton-rd., Bradford.
ANDERSON, T. G., 7, Anglo Cottages, Purfleet.
ANDREWS, J. M., St. John's Wood Villas, Hazelmere, High Wycombe.
ANDREWS, MRS. E., 19, Cookham-hill, Borstal.
ANGELL, MRS. H. E., Westwood, Ryde, I.O.W.
ANSCOMBE, A. E., Steam Bakery, Wadhurst.
ARMSTRONG, J., 6, Victoria-park, Weston-super-Mare.
ARNOLD, F., 36, Tresillian-rd., Brockley, S.E.
ASHBY, F., 48, Sandmere-rd., Clapham.
ASHDOWN, G., 16, Albion-hill, Lewisham.
ASHTON, F., 37, Forrest-rd., Edinburgh
ASPLAND, F., 18, Valingers-rd., King's Cross, Norfolk.
ATKINSON, ALICE, 44, Tower-lane, Armley, Leeds.
ATKINSON, J. L., 15, Relton-ter., Chester-le-Street.
ATTERTON, J., 121, Atwood-rd., Didsbury, Manchester.
BADDELEY, A. D., Villa des Orangers, Sainte Maxime-sur-Mer, Vue, S. France.
BAILEY, H., 204, St. Leonards-rd., East Sheen, S.W.
BAIN, A. C., 151, St. Asaph-rd., Brockley.
BAKER, A. C., 58, Camilla-rd., Bermondsey.
BAKER, T. G., 7, Walgrave-ter., Landsell-rd., Mitcham.
BAKER, G. E., 8, Brays-lane, Coventry.
BAKER, C., 72, Rutland-rd., Chesterfield.
BALCON, R. W., 95, Hampton-rd., Ilford.
BALDWIN, H., 37, Caxton-rd., Wood Green.
BALE, F., 3, Marlborough-rd., Magdalen-rd., Norwich.
BALL, D. T., 17, Flynne-st., nr. Walter-rd., Swansea.
BANTVELD, F., 2, Master Bakers' Almshouses, Leytonstone.
BANKS, MRS. E., 33, Buller-st., Derby.
BARBER, F. S., 15, The Parade, Ferndale.
BARNARD, H., Leicester House, Ledbury.
BARR, J. H., 14, Grove-rd., Woolston, Southampton.
BARRETT, H., 125, Upper Tooting-rd., S.W.
BARRETT, F., Oakdale-rd., Weybridge.
BARRLAK, J., 139, High-st., Old Fletton, Peterborough.
BARROW, A. T., 74, Wintringham-rd., Grimsby.
BARTER, MISS E., 14, Alton-rd., Plymouth.
BARTLETT, J. W., 18, Russell-rd., Westbury Park, Bristol.
BARTON, H. H., 12, Mount-st., Lincoln.

Owing to lack o' space we are unable to publish a list of the 250 Prizewinners of Turtevs on this page. Complete lists can be had on application at these offices accompanied by a id. stamp. A list is also published in this week's "Competitors' Journal."

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding prizes, originality and aptness will be taken into account. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 918 and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, December 17th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter in dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

No element of chance enters into the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT Members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been elected by reason of their high qualification for this work. This staff put aside all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious to qualify for a prize. So that, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient merit to receive a prize. Then, all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all number to correspond with the total number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor, again in consultation with the Judges, decides finally the order of merit. This system of judging the lines of outstanding merit. These are placed before the Editor, who, after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of judging k ns a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied the whole of the week—so thoroughly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of j ging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN NSU TION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can receive a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons outstand g merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the adjudication staff. In consultation, before the final wards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered, and re-read and re-considered by a specially selected staff of highly-qualified Adjudicators, de the genera supervision of an experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

Complete List of all cash and other Prize-winners in the above Competition can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

There will be decent class racing every day this week, whilst on Friday and Saturday both Gatwick and Haydock Park will seek support. The two venues are, however, so far removed from one another that each should find plenty of patronage

Prophetic.

To-day (Wednesday) at Windsor, EBONETTE is the likely winner of the Clewer Steeplechase, and KILWILLIAM is a likely proposition for the Forest Maiden Steeplechase. To-morrow (Thursday)

MASINDI

now that his confidence has increased, ought to win the Three-year-old Hurdle. The small penalty earned by FINNIGAN last week should not stop him in the College Steeplechase, and LAMENTABLE appears to have an easy task in the Club Steeplechase.

At Gatwick on Friday

CORTIGAN'S PRIDE

should very much improve on her last running and take the Pegasus Steeplechase, and VICTOR FELICITAS with bottom weight ought to win the Amateur Riders' Steeplechase. The Amateur Riders' Hurdle on Saturday should go to MARECHAL STROZZI; FLORIAL is the likely winner of the Stayers' Steeplechase; whilst if

LAMENTABLE*

is kept for the Novices' Steeplechase it will represent the best thing of the week

At Haydock ANGEL'S PATH on Friday, and SOPRANO on Saturday, should win their races; whilst RATHNALLY will be worth support on whichever day he competes.

Our Editor is sending BUNCH OF KEYS to Windsor on Thursday, and he will go close.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not of course, for publication, but in token of good faith.

PATRICK O'BRIEN (Lucerne).—JERRY M.—Mr. O'Brien's next sweepstake is upon the Grand National, the guaranteed prize fund being £10,000. For further particulars you must write direct to Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, Switzerland.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEPSTAKE, 1914.—INTERESTED.—We understand it is now definitely settled that the guaranteed prize fund will be £50,000, and that Messrs. Smallman and Terry propose to lodge the full amount with a leading London bank, whose acknowledgment will be circulated amongst the subscribers.

"JOHN BULL" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEP.—C. R. P. (Edinburgh).—There is nothing to prevent Scottish readers entering for the sweepstake.——H. H. G. (Ontario).—We much appreciate your kind letter, and sympathise with you in the difficulties which surround you and other Canadian readers in participating in *bona fide* sweepstakes, but we cannot act as agents in the matter. We can only suggest that you should send your tickets and remittance to some friend in England who will forward them to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland. We note with satisfaction that you are pleased with the manner in which you have been treated by Mr. Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne.——W. S. (Coventry).—Yes, a postal order will do. We do not know how it is that your friend, who, you say, drew Aston Villa in a Football Cup Sweepstake, and was entitled to £2,000 only received £100. In whose "sweep" did he participate, and what conditions governed it?——W. L. (North Shields).—We have made inquiries, and are assured that the individual you mention has no authority for representing himself as an agent for Messrs. Smallman and Terry. We have already warned our readers against buying tickets from strangers at less than 2s. 6d., and any offer of them at a lower price than this sum should be regarded with great suspicion.——BOMBARDIER.—The last day for posting is December 29th. In view of the pressure of Christmas traffic, we suggest you should post early.

JAMES SPENCE AND CO. (Leeds).—H. G. (Gosport).—We know nothing of this firm.

H. DIAMOND (Lucerne).—A. M. (Keswick).—We are not responsible for the statements appearing in any other journal. We *know* Mr. Diamond conducts his sweepstake business in a thoroughly honourable manner. Can you tell us of any complaint?

BOUVERET TURF CLUB.—T. W. (Salford).—It is quite true that these people have removed to St. Moritz. Their previous premises were a few rooms at the Hotel de l'Aiglon at Bouveret, a little village on Lake Leman, Switzerland. We do not advise you to subscribe. Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, and Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne, are the best firms.

"SPORTING WORLD" FOOTBALL CUP SWEEP (Basle).—BASLE PRESTON.—Have nothing to do with this.

"PILOT SYSTEM."—BOHEMIAN.—We have heard nothing of this for some time.

WHITE, FISHER AND CO.—MATCHBOX.—W. E. D. (Luton.)—Yes, quite straight.

LLOYD'S SWEEPSTAKES.—A. B. (Hepworth).—We are unable to assist you, and have already advised our readers to have nothing to do with these people.

FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.—SAFETY MATCHES.—You would be quite safe, but you must be careful to confine your business to firms of standing, such as A. F. Smallman or H. T. Terry, both of whom carry on business on a large scale at Geneva, Switzerland.

ALFRED H. MAURICE (Birsfelden).— J. H. (Wakefield).—In view of the fact that the guarantor of these sweepstakes is a responsible and well-known turf accountant in the person of Mr. David Cope, you may be easy in your mind.

We have to repeat that we cannot undertake to adjudicate upon betting disputes, except in cases where such disputes may be referred to us by arrangement between any of our advertisers and their clients.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 13th December, 1913.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Season's Result.	JOHN BULL	The Umpire.	News of the World.	Weekly Dispatch.	Jeffcoates Guide.	Sunday Chron etc.	Sporting Gossip.	Lotinga's Weekly.
FIRST LEAGUE	Aston V. v. Tottenham H. ..	Aston Villa won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bolton W. v. Everton	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Burnley v. Manchester C. ..	No match	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home
	Chelsea v. Sunderland	Chelsea won	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away
	Liverpool v. Middlesbrough ..	Liverpool won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Manchester U. v. Bradford City	Manchester U. won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Newcastle U. v. Sheffield U. ..	Sheffield won	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Oldham A. v. Blackburn R. ..	Draw	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Home
	Preston North End v. Derby Co.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home
	Sheffield W. v. W. Bromwich A.	Sheffield won	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Draw
SECOND LEAGUE	Arsenal v. Lincoln C. ..	Bradford won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Bristol C. v. Birmingham ..	Birmingham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away
	Clapton Orient v. Woolwich A.	No match	Draw	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Draw	Away
	Hull City v. Fulham	Fulham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Leeds City v. Grimsby Town ..	Grimsby won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Leicester F. v. Bury	Leicester F. won	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Home
	Notts C. v. Nottingham F. ..	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Stockport Co. v. Blackpool ..	Stockport won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Wolverhampton W. v. Barnsley	Wolverhampton won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SOUTHERN LEAGUE	Millwall A. v. Bristol Rovers ..	Millwall won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Brighton & H. E. v. West Ham U. ..	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home
	Northampton T. v. Southampton ..	Southampton won	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home
	Exeter City v. Swindon Town ..	Swindon won	Home	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Away	
	Leyton City v. Queen's Pk. R. ..	No match	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Away	Draw
				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
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Exeter	v.	Swindon
Cardiff	v.	Queen's P. R.
Raith Rovers	v.	Celtic
Clapton Orient	v.	Woolwich A.
Leicester	v.	Bury

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„	27th	„	117	„	„	£2	2s. 8d.
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„	11th	„	8	„	„	£31	5s. 0d.
„	18th	„	41	„	„	£6	1s. 11d.
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